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Affairs of Wool and Sheep

Lamb Price Stabilization:

The Wool Grower feels that no apology or explanation is needed for the continuation in its columns of the discussion of price stabilization at the lamb markets. This month's article suggests some things for shippers to consider and act upon. The undertaking is a large one and the raisers and shippers will be the ones to benefit from what improvement can be effected. By considering and acting upon some of the suggestions offered, the sheepmen can make this fall's prices at the lamb markets more steady than they will be if no effort is made. There is no criticism or antagonism against any one but more study and more active co-operation between the shippers and their salesmen at the markets is needed. It is the sort of thing that must be done to keep sheep raising progressive and efficient as an industry and for the individuals and companies engaged in it.

The Wool Grower invites further discussion of this question by any persons interested in any of its angles. Objections or unfavorable criticism will be printed, though it will be helpful if those who write also will give their ideas as to how improvement can be secured. If there are those who think that no greater degree of price stabilization is desirable or possible their expressions will be welcome too. The Wool Grower wants to serve the industry by furnishing a clearing house for all ideas, suggestions, and shades of opinion on this subject. Send on the letters, even if they do contain brick bats!

Hand-to-Mouth Buying:

In this season's wool trade a great deal has been said about 'hand-to-mouth' buying. It is reported that retail clothing merchants buy only a few weeks' supply at one time, and are able to get quick deliveries on orders for additional supplies, throwing upon the garment manufacturer the burden of carrying necessary stocks

of made up garments. But the garment manufacturer also is said to be buying as he sells, on the basis of numerous but small orders. He takes his cloth from the cloth manufacturer in smaller quantities, and the manufacturer adopts the same plan in buying his raw wool.

Evidently the effect of the new plan of merchandising is to compel the carrying of stocks much more largely in the form of wool in the hands of the dealer or of growers. The general character of the business has been materially changed, to the advantage of all concerned after the wool is sold until the consumer is reached. The retailer, the garment maker and cloth maker, all have smaller inventories to carry and run less risk of loss through change in markets or in styles, and presumably can operate on smaller margins. The change may be expected to make the wool and clothing business more stable. But the stock carrying must be done largely by the wool trade itself instead of by the other branches of the industry. One publication suggests that it is now the growers' duty to carry the wools and supply them as needed under the new order of things. Certainly it seems that some one must carry wool for longer periods and sell in smaller quantities than heretofore.

The new way should mean greater stability of prices all along the line. More stable conditions render it safer to carry wool stocks and this argues for the greater safety of growers holding wool under consignment at the markets where it can be sold when and in the quantities called for. Hand-to-mouth buying can be expected to work to the advantage of all except those who want to force a year's supply into the trade within a few weeks.

Advisory Boards

National forest officials in some states have requested permittees to recommend

persons to act as members of advisory boards under the new plan called for by the revised regulation published in January.

The boards created under the new regulation would consist of one cattleman named by the permittees, one sheepman similarly named and the supervisor of the forest concerned. The proposal seems impractical and illogical, particularly as the official whose decision would be appealed from would be a member of the board handling such appeal. The suggestion on this point contained in the Stanfield bill seems much more reasonable and satisfactory and it would appear advisable for stockmen using the forests to defer any further action regarding advisory or appeal boards until the Federal legislation to be written regarding the forests has been completed.

THE FABRIC BILL

Late reports from Washington show that the steering committee of the Senate has revised its schedule of bills which are to come up for final consideration and vote at the present session. It is now reported that the completion of the debate on the fabric bill and the vote will be postponed to take place during the short session, which opens early next December.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION DEFERS ACTION ON LOWER RATES FOR LIVE STOCK IN THE WEST

The Interstate Commerce Commission, on April 28, dismissed the case known as Docket 14190 in which the American National Live Stock Association and the National Wool Growers Association sought relief from unduly high rates charged in many cases for shipment of live stock from one range to another or from ranges to feed lots, when the use of two or more railway lines is necessary.

It was not attempted to consider the question of rates to market in connection with this proceeding. What was sought was more reasonable rates for necessary movements of stock within the western breeding and feeding areas. For the shipment of breeding or feeder sheep or cattle within the West when two railroads are

concerned it usually is necessary to pay local rates on both lines. It was asked by the associations that some plan of rates based on mileage should be put in to apply in such cases, similar to those used in other regions. In dismissing the case for the present, the commission admits the reasonableness of the proposal and suggests that the stockmen and railroad officials attempt to develop the needed arrangement.

The final argument in the case was presented to the commission in January by Secretary Tomlinson of the American National Association. In reference to the recent decision Mr. Tomlinson writes the Wool Grower:

"The examiner who heard this case submitted his report on September 30, 1925. He recommended that the commission 'should find that the rates on live stock throughout the territory in issue are unreasonable and unduly prejudicial, and that a reasonable maximum basis, which would also effect a proper relationship of the rates to each other, would be the mileage scales hereinafter proposed.'

"He also stated:

"Such an adjustment would not only afford a definitely ascertainable maximum rate to the shipper, but would also stabilize an adjustment of rates over a wide territory that has heretofore been, and is now being by the complaints now pending deal with piecemeal."

"In many instances there have been no reasonable single- or joint-line rates for the movement of live stock into feed-lots or between ranges in the territory covered by the complaint. Where two or more lines were involved, a combination of local rates was frequently the only basis—and that was generally prohibitive. The case was brought to correct this situation.

"However, the commission, while recognizing the importance and desirability for a more stable and readily understandable basis of rates which will facilitate the movement of stock cattle between ranges and feeding points, evidently concluded that nothing should be done pending the action under the Hoch-Smith Resolution. The commission was probably also influenced by the fact that under previous decisions it had authorized maximum mileage scales on live stock which did not entirely harmonize with each other as to operating conditions or

otherwise, or with the bases suggested by complainants. The following quotation from the decision of the commission furnishes a partial reason for the decision, although it seems to us unduly to magnify the unwarranted or varying situation as to present rates:

"It would be difficult to exaggerate the complexity of the situation with which we are here called upon to deal. The attack is upon rates applicable on live stock throughout half of the United States. The present rates include specific single and joint-line rates to markets, and a considerable number of specific rates from and to points other than markets where any considerable volume of movement has developed: mileage rates; Class B rates in Pacific coast territory; round-trip rates for the movement of stock cattle to and from feeding points; and feeding-in-transit arrangements under which stock cattle may be started toward a market, stopped for feeding and development, and then moved on to the market at the market rate for the through movement. These rates vary over a wide range. The rates themselves are on different levels; the carload minima are as low as 20,000 pounds and as high as 26,000 pounds, and certain rates per car are based on even higher average actual weights; in some instances stock-cattle rates are made lower than those on beef cattle by certain percentages, but the percentages are not uniform."

"The concluding paragraph of the decision expresses the sympathy of the commission with the contention of complainants, and recommendation as to adjustment by conference with the carriers, etc., as follows:

"This record indicates the desirability for a more stable and readily ascertainable basis of rates which will facilitate the movement of stock cattle between ranges and feeding points, and we are entirely in sympathy with complainant's desires in this respect. We are, therefore, reluctant to dismiss this complaint; but, in view of the conditions above outlined, and of the pendency of American National Live Stock Association, *et al.* v. A. T. & S. F. Ry. Co., *et al.*, Docket No. 15686, and related cases, involving live-stock rates generally throughout this entire territory, we feel that that is the only course open to us upon the present record. This action, however, is not to be regarded as an approval of the present basis of rates on stock cattle, and we strongly recommend to the defendants that they co-operate with the complainants in the establishment throughout this territory of rates for the movement of stock cattle which are adapted to existing operating and transportation conditions in the different sections, and which will, in so far as possible, encourage movements direct from ranges to feeding points.

Sheepmen's Calendar

Arizona Wool Growers' Convention: Flagstaff, July 13-14.

Wyoming Wool Growers' Convention: Thermopolis, July 15-17.

Idaho Ram Sale: Filer, August 18.

National Ram Sale: Salt Lake City, Utah. August 30, 31-September 1.

GRAZING LEGISLATION ENDORSED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES

The position of American business men on important public matters was indicated by resolutions adopted on May 13, at Washington, D. C., at the fourteenth annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

This organization includes in its membership over 1400 local chambers of commerce, most of which sent delegates to the recent meeting. The chamber's officers and individual members include a very large proportion of the country's most influential and powerful business men. The expressions of the chamber have always been conservative and very carefully considered before publication. Its recommendations are seriously considered by members of Congress and by others who study public affairs and proposals for new legislation. The text of a few of the most interesting resolutions adopted at the meeting referred to follows:

Western Grazing

The live-stock industry of the western states is dependent for forage upon the resources of the national forests and the public domain. These forage resources should be kept at a high degree of productivity.

Utilization of the forage resources in the national forests should be based upon express authority of law, with preservation of the primary purpose of national forests.

In order that there may be the fullest development in use of the forage resources which are in the hands of the federal government in our western states there should be legislation giving the departments of the federal government which have jurisdiction as to national forests and the public domain authority to provide regulations which will at once maintain and improve forage resources and at the same time stabilize the live-stock industry through such means as grazing permits covering terms of years, a reasonable system of fees, proper allocation of the number of cattle and sheep which may be grazed, and measures in aid of adminis-

tration which will assure use and enjoyment by all concerned.

National Park Policy

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has earlier expressed its interest in the creation of national parks. It believes the primary responsibility of the federal government in the establishment or maintenance of national parks is to preserve those features of our landscape where, in sufficiently large areas the scenery is so unusually beautiful and is so characteristic of its kind, and where consequently, it has so great an educational or other value that it may be considered a heritage of the whole nation rather than a recreational facility for the inhabitants of adjacent territory. The primary responsibility for supplying recreational facilities for the people of states and municipalities lies with the states and municipalities themselves.

Agriculture

The welfare of American agriculture is of primary concern to our nation. On the prosperity of the farmer largely rests the success of all business and it is essential that there should exist a steadily increasing understanding and co-operation between agriculture and other forms of business in the interest of the national welfare. This industry has suffered severely from the readjustment of prices, and the United States Chamber of Commerce, in a spirit of national service, is prepared to extend its utmost efforts to establish a more secure basis of agricultural prosperity.

Agriculture is a business, and its problems, including production, finance and distribution, are largely business problems by no means easy of solution—involving, as they do, widely different industries and localities. Any help rendered must give due regard to the delicacy, intricacy and wide variation of the issues involved. An encouraging feature of the situation is the fact that the processes of distribution and orderly marketing of agricultural products are steadily developing in accordance with sound business principles. In this development the chamber through its experience should be prepared to assist in increasing the field of opportunity for American farmers

through friendly cooperation and recognition.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States recognizes its obligations toward agriculture and of recent years through the establishment of its Agricultural Service has made a careful survey of certain methods by which agriculture seeks assurance of that equality of opportunity to which it is entitled.

This chamber has obtained much valuable information from a series of regional agricultural conferences,—begun during the past year and to be continued this year. This information is available for use in developing a well-balanced national agricultural policy.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States would welcome cooperation from representatives of agriculture for holding a national agricultural conference at which the leaders in agriculture and other industry would be brought together for frank discussion of this great national problem in a determined effort to agree on a national agricultural policy. Should such a conference be undertaken the National Chamber stands ready to offer its complete facilities and to enlist in this effort in a spirit of mutual helpfulness leadership of proven ability from the broad fields of business.

The duty of this chamber seems clear. We have no desire to dictate to agriculture as to its program but we wish to be of service in a spirit of the utmost co-operation. An opportunity for real service lies before us and we hereby pledge the chamber to use its utmost efforts to assist in formulating a sound national agricultural policy—practical and constructive.

A WASHINGTON WOOL GROWER IN ENGLAND

To the Wool Grower:

I returned a short time ago from my trip through South America and Europe. At Buenos Aires I saw some Romney rams from England that were sold by Bulrich Brothers, auctioneers, for very high prices. I also visited the Rambouillet Farm, near Paris, the original home of that breed. While in England I was entertained and shown around by Brown

& Son of London, who are live-stock agents. Mr. Quested, the great Romney breeder living in the Kent district, was also very kind to me. He took me over the famous Romney Marshes, the home of the Romney sheep, which was very interesting as I have been a great admirer of Romneys ever since seeing them ten years past in New Zealand when I selected and imported nearly a hundred head. The Romney marshes are well drained now and carry about five sheep to the acre. The marshes extend from the Romney hills to the ocean over an area from five to ten miles wide.

I very much enjoyed riding Mr. Quested's hunting horse which he uses for his fox chases. I tried him over the hurdles and across the meadows which made me think of my polo ponies and games at home.

I also visited several of the famous Hampshire breeding stations. Among them were the Morrison Stock Farm, Brown Brothers, and Major and Mrs. Jervoise at Herriard Park, Basingstoke. I saw some of the most famous Hampshires and Romneys in England and made several selections, but could not import them on account of a quarantine for foot-and-mouth disease.

England is certainly a beautiful country and the home of our best breeds of cattle and sheep. However, I am glad to get back to good old Yakima where we raise the best fat mutton lambs in the world.

I find sheep in fine condition in our valley although ranges are very dry at this writing, June 5. We will start shipping February lambs within the next twenty days. Some lambs have been contracted at from 11 to 12 cents a pound. Several bands of aged ewes and their lambs have been bought and shipped in from Oregon to summer here.

For the past few years we have been sowing old fields to rye and find it pays well for sheep pasture in the fall, winter and spring.

H. Stanley Coffin

The National Ram Sale will be held at Salt Lake City, August 30-31, and September 1.

The California Ram Sale

Eight hundred ninety-eight rams went through the auction ring at an average price of \$50.13 at the sixth annual ram sale of the California Wool Growers Association. Hampshires secured the highest prices paid for single rams, \$625 and \$600. The top sales in the different breeds, and breed and consignors' averages are given below.

The sale was held at University Farm, at Davis, on June 1 and 2, with Col. Dwight Lincoln at his best, wielding the hammer. An average price of \$48 was realized on the 630 Hampshire rams. Last year 435 head averaged \$55. The Rambouillets sold higher than last year: 123 head brought \$58 each while \$52 was realized on 115 head in 1925.

Top Prices on Single Stud Rams

Hampshires:

\$625 for ram sold by Frank Brown & Son of Carleton, Ore., to A. T. Spencer, Cranmore, Calif.

\$600 for ram sold by Mt. Haggin Land & Live Stock Co., Anaconda, Montana, to Harrison Stock Farm, Woodland, Calif.

Rambouillets:

\$275 for ram sold by University of California, to F. N. Bullard, Woodland, Calif.

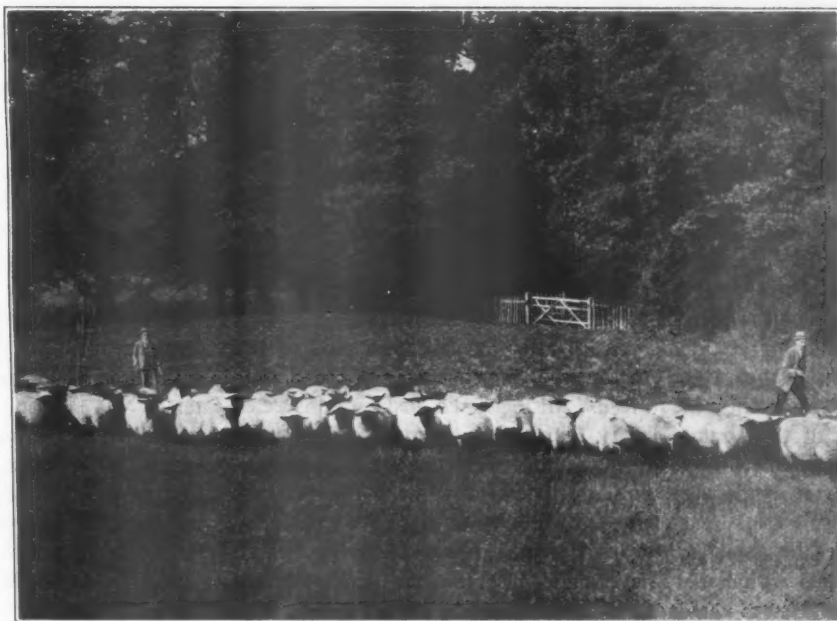
\$255 for ram sold by F. N. Bullard to Phil Smith of Esparto, Calif.

Shropshires:

\$235 for ram sold by Howard Vaughn, Dixon, Calif., to Wm. Clark of Petrolia, Calif.

CONSIGNORS AVERAGES:

| | No. | SINGLES Price Per Head | No. | PENS Price Per Head |
|---|-----|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| Rambouillets | | | | |
| University of California, Davis, California..... | 1 | \$275.00 | 9 | \$ 53.30 |
| Dwight Lincoln, Marysville, Ohio..... | 2 | 125.00 | | |
| Gordon H. True, Davis, California..... | 1 | 125.00 | | |
| Bullard Bros., Woodland, California..... | 3 | 226.67 | 20 | 64.00 |
| R. F. Miller, Davis, California..... | 2 | 117.50 | 12 | 53.75 |
| G. N. Merritt & Sons, Woodland, California..... | 3 | 96.67 | 20 | 48.00 |
| Carl Lindheimer, Woodland, California..... | | | 15 | 33.06 |
| Wm. Briggs & Son, Dixon California..... | | | 30 | 51.40 |
| Phil. Smith, Esparto, California..... | | | 5 | 35.00 |
| Delaines | | | | |
| Frank H. Russell, Wakeman, Ohio..... | 2 | 137.50 | 10 | 50.00 |
| Shropshires | | | | |
| University of California, Davis, California..... | 2 | 67.76 | 6 | 46.00 |
| Howard Vaughn, Dixon, California..... | 5 | 158.00 | 15 | 37.00 |
| Jos. I. Casale, Red Bluff, California..... | | | 10 | 32.50 |
| G. K. Swingle, Davis, California..... | | | 20 | 42.75 |
| Frank Campbell, Davis, California..... | | | 30 | 37.08 |
| Hampshires | | | | |
| University of California, Davis, California..... | 2 | 85.00 | 9 | 45.00 |
| Walter P. Hubbard, Fresno, California..... | 1 | 70.00 | | |
| C. Harold Hopkins, Davis, California..... | 3 | 98.33 | 11 | 66.82 |
| Alex. J. Johnson, Dixon, California..... | 3 | 98.33 | 11 | 66.82 |
| Thousand Springs Farm, Wendell, Idaho..... | 5 | 175.00 | 10 | 52.50 |
| University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada..... | 1 | 70.00 | 3 | 45.00 |
| Mt. Haggin Land and L. S. Co., Anaconda, Mont.... | 5 | 200.62 | 120 | 39.06 |
| Frank Brown & Son, Carleton, Oregon..... | 4 | 312.50 | 59 | 54.56 |
| J. D. Grieve, Davis, California..... | | | 75 | 36.37 |
| Wm. Bond, Newark, California..... | | | 13 | 39.38 |
| H. H. Gable, Esparto, California..... | | | 20 | 31.25 |
| Wood L. S. Company, Spencer, Idaho..... | | | 70 | 45.07 |
| Danberg L. S. Co., Minden, Nevada..... | | | 68 | 41.25 |
| E. E. Brownell, San Francisco, California..... | | | 20 | 46.25 |
| Spencer Ranch Company, Cranmore..... | 1 | 60.00 | 105 | 41.13 |
| Romneys | | | | |
| Eugene Tribble, Lodi, California..... | 2 | 100.00 | | |
| Romeldales | | | | |
| Spencer Ranch Co., Cranmore..... | | | 38 | 55.66 |



A part of the flock that won the British Suffolk Championship in 1925.

The Suffolk Sheep In Great Britain

By John Ashton

Ever since I saw the fine display of Suffolks at the English Royal held at Cardiff, 1919, I have wondered why this breed has not been taken up more generally by sheepmen in the United States. Again at the Royal held at Chester in 1925, and at certain farms, I had other opportunities to inspect the breed. Needless to state, I was again impressed by the quality and growthiness of these sheep. Compared with other British breeds of sheep Suffolks are scarcely known in the United States. Many experienced flockmasters and shepherds have never seen a Suffolk.

Outside of Idaho and adjoining states, a certain area where the breed has been successfully diffused during the last few years on its merits alone, it would be a difficult matter to find any Suffolk sheep in this country. But as soon as classes for this handsome and eminently useful race of mutton sheep have been established at some of the leading shows the progress of the breed can be expected to be positive and steady.

The breed is getting to be well known by name at least. Events which take place

in the livestock world in Great Britain, especially concerning mutton sheep these days, find their echo in this country, and many western flockmasters have been focussing their attention lately on the remarkable progress which is being made by the Suffolk breed across the Atlantic. Although prominent winnings at Smithfield go back to a quarter of a century ago, it is only during the last few years that the successes of this breed have been so insistent as to arouse widespread interest in this black-faced sturdy type.

The Suffolk is an attractive-looking sheep. Its head and face are black and devoid of wool, as are the legs below the knees and hocks. The broad chest and back with the long, deep body, supported on strong legs, indicate the best type of mutton sheep; while the whiteness of the wool in contrast with the black face and dark legs, and the well carried head and ear give the animal a handsome and alert appearance.

Arthur Young, in his General View of the Agriculture of the County of Suffolk, published in 1797, describes how the na-

tive ewes of East Anglia were crossed with Southdown rams. The resulting progeny became popular with the butchers, and by a method of selection a fixed type was eventually evolved. One of the most important changes wrought by the Southdown cross was the suppression of the horns, inasmuch as the old-time sheep of those parts carried horns. The Southdown also imparted the compact form and early-maturing qualities which were notoriously lacking in the native sheep.

The Suffolk has been recognized as a pure breed since 1810, but it was not until 1886 that the Suffolk Sheep Society was formed. From that time on the breed was pitted against other good breeds at English shows and it ultimately came to be regarded as a strong rival of some breeds which have been imported extensively to this country. But it was during and since the war that the Suffolk made its phenomenal growth in popularity among British, and even Irish, flockmasters. The Australian and New Zealand soldiers, many of them big sheepmen, were impressed by the Suffolk on its

native soil. So far as that goes, it may be said that all the Colonials interested in agriculture and live stock made their appraisals of British stock of all kinds during and immediately following the war. As an example of the growth of this breed in the British Isles during the last decade or so it may be mentioned that in 1914 the number of registered flocks was 172; at the present time there are more than 400, distributed over 72 countries.

At the big Kelso ram sales, the great market where rams suitable for getting fat lambs are sold, 500 Suffolk tups were sold last year in one day, at an average of about \$84 a head. Most of these rams are used on smaller breeds of sheep—on the Border Leicester-Cheviot and the Border Leicester-Blackface cross-bred ewes, or on straight Border Leicester or Cheviot ewes. When crossed with half-bred ewes the produce is marketed in various ways: either as fat lambs for early market, as feeder lambs for the summer and autumn sales, or the ewe lambs are sold at ewe lamb sales to go in breeding flocks. When crossed on Cheviot and Blackface ewes the produce is usually sold at feeder sales for keeping on through the winter and bringing out in the spring months to be sold as clipped "hogs," as they are known in the old country. This class of sheep commands a good price owing to the fine quality of marbled fat and lean carcass. With Border Leicester ewes the progeny is mostly marketed as fat lambs. It is said that this cross makes a

very quick maturing lamb, in great demand by the butcher, from the fact that it grows to a large size at an early age.

It is now the custom in the south of Scotland to keep Suffolk half-bred ewes as a regular flock. These are mated with a Suffolk, Oxford, or a Border Leicester ram. All the lambs resulting from this cross go to the butcher or are sold as feeders, and first-cross (Suffolk half-breds) ewe lambs are bought each year to keep up the strength of the flock.

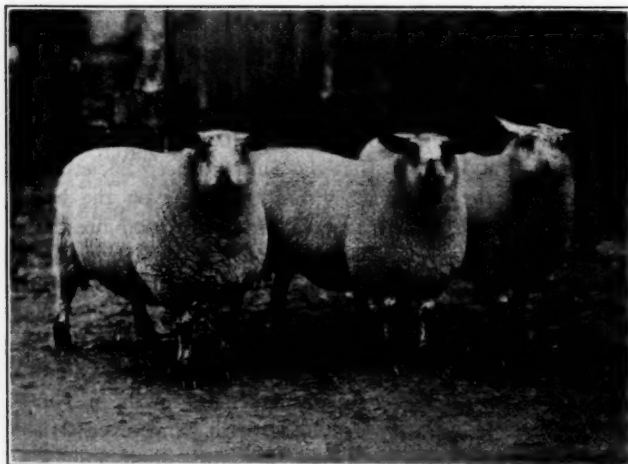
Much attention has been paid of late to the wool improvement in the Suffolk breed. All registered flocks are inspected every fourth year by men in the service of the Suffolk Sheep Society, who are empowered to cull any sheep that are not true to breed type or that have a tendency to dark wool. Other incentives which have made for improvement are the annual flock competitions, for which valuable cups are offered for competition among various sized flocks. A special cup is offered for the best flock of ewe lambs, and a champion gold cup for the best flock of the breed.

Some high prices have been paid for the best rams of this breed. As for ewes, although prices for females took a drop all round in 1924, about 4,000 shearling ewes of the breed were sold at an average of about \$43 a head; and in 1925 ewe lambs averaged about \$24 a head for 7,000 at four to five months old.

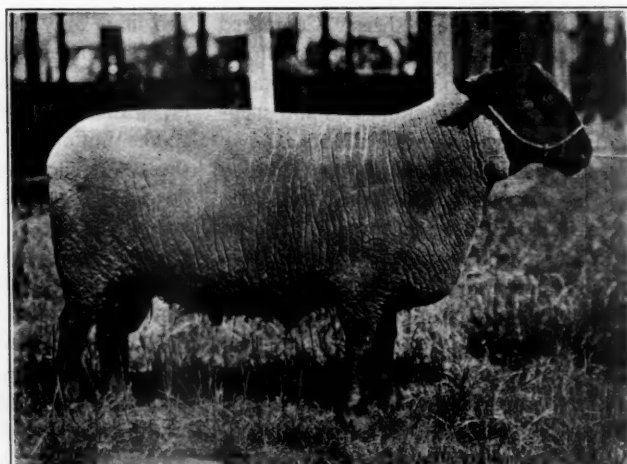
As to wool, the average weight of the first year's clip is about eight pounds.

Ewes clip from five to seven pounds; rams up to fourteen. According to S. B. Hollings, wool expert of Bradford, England, "a Suffolk fleece possess exceedingly good, sound commercial characteristics. The quality is good 56's, the staple a nice length, sound, and altogether ideal for hosiery purposes. So long as such fleeces are grown there will always be a healthy market, for wool of this character is more appreciated today than ever." J. T. Stephen, wool expert of Leicester, England, says: "The various crosses of Suffolk sheep yield fleeces of grand character. . . . During the wool sales, where fine wools of the highest character in the kingdom are shown, a very large proportion were half-breds of Suffolk rams." Suffolk wool has won the challenge cup for the best Down wool at the Great Yorkshire Show for the last three years, according to the secretary of the Suffolk Sheep Society. As to the comparative quality of the wool, it is asserted by the latter that only one other of the Down breeds—the Southdown—yields wool of better quality than the Suffolk. It would be of interest to hear what the exponents of the other excellent Down breeds have to say in this respect.

Lambing records have been kept by the Society for thirty-three years. The average during this period was 133.01 lambs reared for every 100 ewes mated. In 1889 the average for all flocks registered was 134.50 per cent. It is maintained that with Suffolks in Scotland today the



Cross-bred Suffolk-Cheviot Lambs, Champions at Edinburgh, 1925.



A Yearling Champion Ram at the Suffolk County Show.

average is from 150 to 175 per cent. The death rate in ewes is reported to be small, from the fact, it is asserted, that the fine, clean-cut head facilitates matters at lambing time.

As to weights of Suffolk sheep: The average weight of lambs of this breed, at one week from birth, according to the School of Agriculture connected with Cambridge University, as a result of four lambings in the University flock, are as follows: In the case of single ram lambs, 18.1 pounds; twin rams, 13.5 pounds; triplets, 10.3 pounds. And for ewe lambs: single ewes, 17.4; twin ewes, 12.7, and triplets, 10.3 pounds. The weight at birth can be approximately learned on subtracting about three or four pounds from these weights, inasmuch as lambs of this breed gain that weight during the first week.

At least three-fourths of Suffolks grown for the butcher are killed as lambs under twelve months old. The Suffolk has many championships to its credit at Smithfield and other shows. At the former show Suffolk fat wethers when shown run from 280 to 331 pounds at ages not exceeding 22 months. Lambs not exceeding ten months weigh 180 to 220 pounds. Ewes over three years weigh 260 to 300 pounds. In 1921 Suffolks were again champions over all breeds at Smithfield. The winning pen (three in a pen) weighed 668 pounds and were the heaviest lambs in the show. At Edinburg 36 grand specimens of Suffolk-Border Leicester cross lambs and one pen of purebred Suffolks gave an average of 205.5 pounds per lamb, a record, it is believed, for the Scottish National.

FROM ALBERTA

Southern Alberta (Canada) can take care of five million sheep. We have grass going to waste, so come on over!

Lambing started here on April 28 and now, May 11, a crop of about 135 per cent is estimated. I have 26 pairs of twins out of 99 ewes and still have 35 more ewes to lamb.

To the present time we have had some fine rains and good grass is now assured for all summer. E. J. Campbell.

Wardlaw, Alta., Canada.

Around the Range Country

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the names of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country, and also invites comments and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

WYOMING

Ranges average better than usual over Wyoming, the eastern and central counties having received good rains during the latter part of May; but western ranges are beginning to need rain, at the lower elevations. Lambing and shearing have been completed generally, under excellent weather conditions as a rule; though much shearing is yet to be done in northern counties, and some inclement weather occurred early in the month. Live stock are now in good or excellent condition generally.

Pitchfork

May weather was good; only one storm that killed any lambs. Feed is excellent. We have not heard of any recent sales in wool or any lamb contracts. We bred more ewes this year and proportionately the lamb crop is of the same size as last year.

Phelps' Ranch.

IDAHO

The major portion of southern and central Idaho has run short of moisture and the ranges and dry land crops are greatly in need of rain. Live-stock forage and grasses are still ample, however, and cattle and sheep are still doing very well. Alfalfa has made a fine growth and is nearing the cutting stage generally in the south, with cutting already done over much of the southwest. Light frost did some early damage to the hay. Pastures are in better condition over the pan handle section.

Bancroft

It has been very dry here all during May, but the feed is good. About the same number of ewes lambed this year as in 1925, and the yield is estimated to be about the same as last year's. No con-

tracting has been done in lambs for fall delivery. Some shorn yearling ewes have recently been sold at \$11 a head.

Wool has been moving at from 32 to 34 cents a pound. In general the ewes are shearing more heavily than in 1925. Shearers are being paid 12½ cents with board.

Robert Blastock.

MONTANA

The extensive and prolonged drought in eastern Montana was generally relieved effectively in the last week of May. The heavy rains came very opportunely, and many ranchmen have been relieved of the necessity, for the present at least, of transferring large numbers of live stock to better ranges. Alfalfa has done very well, however, having reached the cutting stage in many sections. Ranges generally are fair to excellent, their condition in the east being still somewhat in doubt. Live stock are only fair in eastern counties, though mostly excellent elsewhere. Shearing and lambing were completed generally under good weather.

Cohagen

May was a hot, dry, and windy month. We had a good rain on the 27th, but it did not fill the water holes. Grass is short now.

In this section there has been no recent activity in wool and no lambs have been contracted.

The lambing bands were smaller this year, but the proportion of lambs dropped to the number of ewes is about what it was in 1925.

Fifteen cents per head with board is the rate for shearing here.

Chas. Coil.

Alzada

We have had fine growing weather during the past month. There were two very

good rains and feed is excellent. No wool has been sold yet in this section; neither have there been any contracts made for lambs. The lamb crop is smaller this year than in 1925.

The shearing rate is 15 cents per head with board.

Ferd H. Hoffman.

OREGON

Ranges are drying but there is still ample feed. Much alfalfa and some clover have been cut, though this work has been delayed locally by rains. Shearing has continued locally, though this work has been delayed somewhat by inclement weather. Lambs and calves have done well. Ranges in western counties have done very well, with ample showers.

Pilot Rock

Lamb prices are good; some choice white faced half-blood Lincoln mixed lambs up to 11¼ cents and a lot of black faced lambs around 10½ to 10¾. Sheepmen in general are pleased with lamb prices. On the other hand, much dissatisfaction is expressed on wool conditions. Many are wondering how long free trade prices will prevail under a 31-cent tariff.

K. G. Warner.

WASHINGTON

Frosts did some rather important damage in most of Washington during the last week in May, and there has been no rain over the eastern half of the state for some time. The drought is therefore becoming important. However, meadows and pastures have done very well, and live stock are mostly in good condition with ample feed supplies in sight.

CALIFORNIA

Temperatures have been comparatively low, and the growth of grasses has been slow in places, but generally range feed is abundant and live stock are in good or excellent condition. The lower ranges, however, and some of the intermediate ranges, are beginning to need rain, especially in middle and southern sections. Sheep shearing has progressed in northern counties with ideal weather. Many range fattened live stock have been shipped to stockyards.

NEVADA

Live-stock and range conditions have averaged good, but the summer dry season is on, and streams are failing and water holes are drying up, with rain needed throughout the state. Alfalfa weevils have already caused a considerable amount of injury, though the crop has made good growth. All vegetation in fact is two or three weeks in advance of the usual stage of development for this time of year. Shearing was completed under favorable circumstances generally; and excellent lambing results were reported.

Simpson

We had very good weather all during May, but feed conditions are not particularly good for this time of the year. Our lamb crop is about the same as last year's. I have not heard of any contracts being made for fall delivery of lambs. There have been some sales of wool recently from 30 to 34 cents.

V. S. Connell.

NEW MEXICO

Live stock and ranges are in good or excellent condition, with feed and water plentiful in practically all sections. Alfalfa has done nicely and cutting is generally under way on a good crop. The southeastern and southwestern counties would be better off with a little more moisture. The calf and lamb crops were large. Only a very few losses occurred at shearing and lambing time.

WESTERN TEXAS

Ranges and cattle are generally excellent, the best in several years. Moisture has come in ample amounts at timely intervals, and the range is luxuriant and live stock thrifty, temperatures having favored all growth.

Comstock

It was quite cool during May, but feed conditions are fine. A very few lambs were contracted during May for fall delivery at from \$5.50 to \$5.75 per head. The yield of lambs is larger than a year ago; more ewes were bred and the results from lambing were larger in proportion to the number bred and the crop in 1925.

Continental Ranch Co.

Rock Springs

We have had very wet weather during April and May and the feed is good. An 80 per cent lamb crop is reported; no contracting in lambs has been done, however. Some shorn yearling ewes have changed hands at \$8, and some older ones have gone at around \$5. We have Mexican crews do our shearing at the rate of six cents for goats and ten cents for sheep, the shearers feeding themselves.

E. Webb.

ARIZONA

Ranges are good to excellent and live stock mostly thrifty as a result of seasonal temperatures and ample precipitation generally. Alfalfa hay cutting has been general over northern areas, and the more southerly sections have harvested heavy hay crops. Water is plentiful, and only locally has the need for rain been apparent; but the effects of the exceptionally heavy April rains are still apparent in a luxuriant stand of range feed.

UTAH

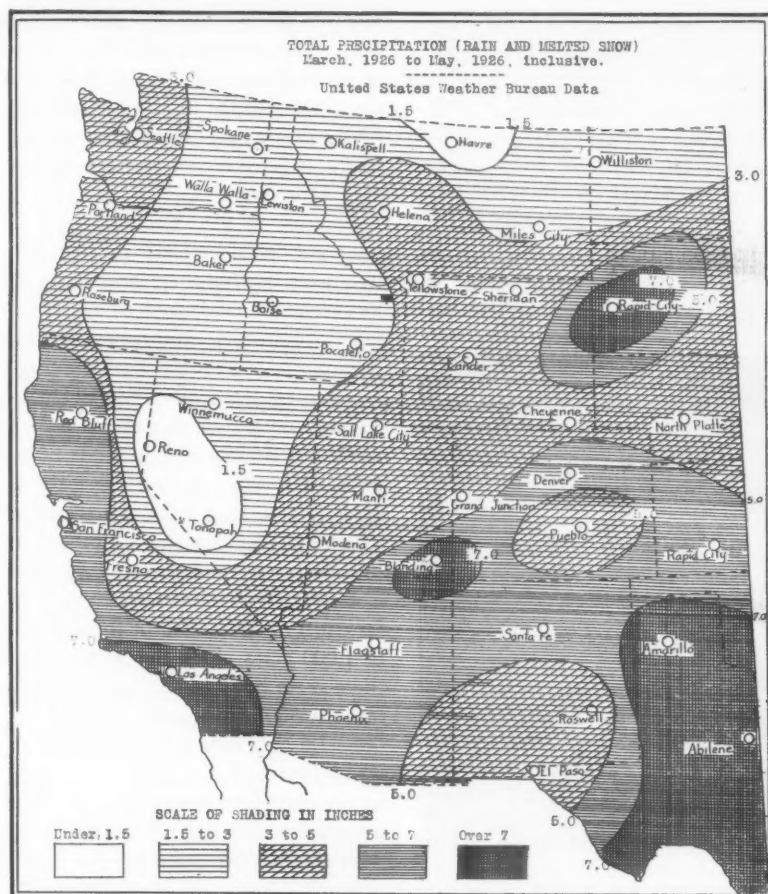
May was a wet month generally, but most of the moisture came in the early half so that the lower and intermediate ranges are needing more rain. Shearing was completed, with excellent weather and no losses, excepting a few slight ones early in the month. Lambing has progressed with excellent results and in fine weather. Cattle and sheep are both in good or excellent condition. Alfalfa hay is unusually early and much first cutting has already been done, though largely forced by weevil depredations.

PROTECTION AGAINST COYOTES

The beacon searchlight along the air mail transcontinental route is driving away an "old timer" denizen of the "wild and woolly West"—the coyote.

Sheepmen of Uintah County, Wyoming, who have been completing the annual migration of their herds from the winter to spring ranges, report that the coyotes have been frightened away from the ranges by the powerful searchlights.

Leon Shaw.



A Map of the March, April and May Rainfall.

SPRING RANGE CONDITIONS

Spring precipitation has been decidedly deficient throughout the western range states, according to the accompanying table and chart, excepting only in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, southern California and southern Utah, where gratifying excesses of moisture are reported. The season is also well in advance of the average, the unusual warmth in most sections having depleted the already scanty moisture supplies.

Thus the outlook is for a droughty range in most sections, especially at the lower elevations. The excesses indicated in the southern tier of western states were fairly well distributed through the months of March, April and May, giving range grasses and forage a substantial and abundant growth. The droughty conditions noted in other states has persisted fairly

uniformly through the past spring months, though an early growing season has given the forage a good stand and an early growth.

The combined winter and spring precipitation, on which the forage of the West depends so greatly, was also generally deficient. Only the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, and local areas in southeastern Wyoming, northern California, and southeastern Utah, show the six months' precipitation totals in excess of normal. It also happens that the general region already best supplied with moisture is the major region of greatest summer thundershowers, in average years, from which a deficiency might later be made up. It will not be forgotten, however, that despite this lack of moisture, most ranges are still good or excellent.

Excess and Deficiency of Moisture at Various Points

Precipitation on the Western Livestock Ranges during March, April and May, 1926, with departure from normal for three and six month periods.

| Station | Total for 3 mos. | Departure last 3 mos. | Departure last 6 mos. |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Washington | | | |
| Seattle | 3.68 | -3.30 | -5.08 |
| Spokane | 2.05 | -1.98 | -2.59 |
| Walla Walla | 2.50 | -2.92 | -3.15 |
| Oregon | | | |
| Portland | 4.43 | -5.48 | -7.90 |
| Baker | 2.32 | -1.79 | -3.40 |
| Roseburg | 2.99 | -5.52 | -6.38 |
| California | | | |
| Red Bluff | 6.15 | -0.78 | +0.93 |
| San Francisco | 5.66 | -0.11 | -0.49 |
| Fresno | 3.94 | +0.84 | -0.36 |
| Los Angeles | 7.93 | +3.32 | -2.88 |
| Nevada | | | |
| Winnemucca | 1.65 | -1.21 | -1.17 |
| Reno | 0.92 | -1.11 | -3.63 |
| Tonopah | 0.56 | -2.71 | -4.60 |
| Arizona | | | |
| Flagstaff | 6.84 | +1.87 | +3.23 |
| Phoenix | 5.17 | +4.22 | +3.27 |
| New Mexico | | | |
| Santa Fe | 5.26 | +2.56 | +1.78 |
| Roswell | 4.41 | +1.69 | +1.18 |
| Texas | | | |
| Amarillo | 9.39 | +3.35 | +1.95 |
| Abilene | 10.13 | +2.75 | +1.08 |
| El Paso | 3.30 | +2.34 | +1.83 |
| Montana | | | |
| Helena | 3.15 | -0.68 | -1.37 |
| Kalispell | 1.64 | -2.53 | -4.67 |
| Havre | 1.40 | -2.18 | -2.78 |
| Miles City | 1.86 | -2.06 | -1.85 |
| N. Dakota | | | |
| Williston | 1.65 | -2.52 | -2.90 |
| Idaho | | | |
| Lewiston | 2.78 | -1.26 | -1.12 |
| Pocatello | 1.67 | -4.30 | -4.58 |
| Boise | 2.69 | -1.22 | -2.10 |
| Utah | | | |
| Logan | 4.09 | -1.77 | -1.41 |
| Salt Lake City | 4.31 | -1.90 | -1.47 |
| Modena | 3.62 | +0.66 | -0.44 |
| Blanding | 7.77 | +4.75 | +0.86 |
| Wyoming | | | |
| Yellowstone | 4.13 | -1.34 | -4.95 |
| Sheridan | 4.44 | -1.47 | -0.34 |
| Lander | 4.47 | -2.49 | -2.08 |
| Cheyenne | 4.06 | -1.17 | +0.79 |
| S. Dakota | | | |
| Rapid City | 8.61 | +2.35 | +2.71 |
| Nebraska | | | |
| North Platte | 2.01 | -4.07 | -4.43 |
| Colorado | | | |
| Denver | 5.70 | -0.01 | +0.58 |
| Pueblo | 3.68 | -0.29 | -0.32 |
| Grand Junction | 2.69 | +0.30 | +0.33 |
| Kansas | | | |
| Dodge City | 5.86 | -0.23 | -0.59 |

DO SHEEP EAT PINES?

To the Woolgrower:

I have been reading with considerable interest the January and February numbers of *American Forests* and *Forest Life*, the magazine of the American Forestry Association. I have to acknowledge a feeling of resentment that such propaganda should be disseminated through any reputable magazine as is contained in the article, "The Grazing Menace on Our National Forests," by H. H. Chapman.

Mr. Chapman bases his attack on grazing, and particularly sheep grazing, on a report made in 1897 by a committee (one of its members being Gifford Pinchot), which investigated conditions in Arizona and New Mexico at that time. With all due respect to Mr. Chapman I propose to show that there are some other matters which need consideration, and that the pine-eating propensities of sheep are not what he would like eastern conservationists to believe. Note what he says: "The important fact is that sheep will eat young pine seedlings more readily than they will eat the coarse bunch grass." Now wouldn't that jar you? And goes on to prove it to eastern satisfaction by showing a picture of a small pine tree two feet three inches tall on the Coconino National Forest, defoliated and dying, proving "typical damage to seedling by sheep."

Now, that picture is something out of the ordinary; in fact, to an observer who acknowledges he has had no experience of pine grazing by sheep, it is extraordinary. In the first place, the tree itself appears to be barked and the pine needles are totally cleaned off the insides of the limbs, but the needle tufts at the end of the limbs are quite untouched.

My experience with sheep has been that when grazing they begin at the outside of a bush and eat toward the center. This tree is different. The old ewe that barked that tree must have begun at the center and worked out. In the foreground, too, there is quite a cover of grass, and behind the tree itself the growth is so luxuriant as to constitute almost a fire hazard. Beside the tree is a hat: evidently some one was proud of that hat and wanted its pic-

ture taken; it looks like a good hat, a Stetson evidently, fairly wide-rimmed, and high-topped with one crease down the crown. Nowadays when some depredation is committed it is usual to look for finger prints, and that hat looks mighty suspicious. It is very evident that the barking of that dying seedling is to be hung on to some poor old biddy, but the circumstantial evidence (including the hat) surrounding that tree, acquits any



The above picture was printed in the February, 1926, issue of *American Forests* and *Forest Life*, with the following legend: **Typical Damage to Seedlings by Sheep—**A tree 2 feet 3 inches tall on the Coconino National Forest defoliated and dying. The greatest damage is done to seedlings before they reach this size. The one and two-year seedlings are often bitten off close to the ground and older ones stripped of all foliage and killed.

bovine animal. No old ewe did it, and it is very doubtful if even a porcupine or some small rodent did it. I'll venture the owner of the hat had pine bark and resin on his pocket knife for weeks after taking that picture.

In all my twenty-five years of experience in the forest I have yet to see a pine or fir seedling hurt by sheep grazing. In fact, there is very serious complaint in some sections, particularly eastern Oregon, that the tremendous increase of coniferous trees has seriously injured the grazing. Now, as the Irishman says, "Put that in your poipe and smoke it." True, I know nothing about New Mexico and Arizona, but at that am I any worse off than H. H. Chapman, who knows nothing of Idaho

and Oregon? And I venture again to assert that probably outside of the two states mentioned and California, perhaps, the grazing of the forests has not only not been a detriment, but an actual advantage to forest growth and perhaps an advantage everywhere.

Fernow, in his "Economics of Forestry," published in 1902—ancient history, it is true, as things go nowadays, but at that modern compared to H. H. Chapman's prehistoric authorities writing regarding the Northwest—and quoting from a report of the United States Geological Survey, says: "Fire has not only damaged, but destroyed thousands of square miles of forest. In the Priest River Reserve, comprising 1,000 square miles, of which 850 square miles is timber producing, 70 per cent of timber once standing is estimated as destroyed by fire in the last thirty years. Except for a small area of 1,600 acres along the lower west fork, there is no body of timber of 1,000 acres or even 500 acres extent not scorched by fire. In the lower zones of 300,000 acres which destruction is practically complete. In the Sub-Alpine zone 40—60,000 acres are more or less injured by fire."

Bring on your old ewes and beat that, will ye?

He proceeds: "Forest fires are the bane of the forests of the United States—the most destructive agency. Reckless exploitation of our virgin woods accompanied by those forest fires, which have become notorious throughout the world, has denuded our timber supplies."

Umph—hush, and along comes Mr. Pinchot again in his *Primer of Forestry*, Part I, and says: "Grazing in the forest does harm in three ways: first, that it is a fertile cause of forest fires." There wasn't any use going any further. I had to disagree with this Forestry Primer right there. With Pinchot-Chapman and Co. shooting, what's the use.

Now I want to ask the gentlemen: Who is the most concerned about forest conditions in this western country? The people within the states where stock growing, sheep and cattle is one of the largest assets we have, or a few swivel chair gentlemen whose business is to make jobs for themselves and hold them when made?

Hugh Sproat.

A NEW ZEALAND CORRIEDALE FLOCK

Snuggling into a narrow little valley surrounded by low tree-clad hills, near Rylestone, New South Wales, is "Eurella," owned by G. B. MacFarlane, and the home of some of the best Corriedales in Australia.

The flock was established by his father, Douglas MacFarlane, at Teviot Station, Otago, New Zealand, in 1904-5, by the purchase of 800 Corriedale ewes from the flock of the New Zealand and Australian Land Company's Levels Estate at Canterbury, New Zealand, which was founded by that company in 1874 with stud Lincoln rams and Merino ewes and which is the oldest flock of Corriedales in existence.

About 1907 a selection from the Teviot flock was transferred to the Claremont Estate at Canterbury. Two years later an addition to the flock was made by a further purchase of forty-four yearling ewes from the same company's flock at Moeraki, Otago, New Zealand, which had been transferred to the Wairoa Estate, Narrabri, New South Wales, Australia,



An Eurella Show Ram

and it was in 1913 that part of this flock was moved to Eurella where it has remained ever since. The remainder of the Wairoa flock has been divided among three brothers of Mr. MacFarlane, who are also raising Corriedales.

The fact that the MacFarlanes are real breeders was shown at the last Sydney show, where sheep of MacFarlane blood captured every first, except one. The sheep from Eurella took most of these



Yearling Ewe and Ewe Lamb From the Eurella Flock

prizes and have done so for the past ten years, particularly in the ram classes.

At Eurella the average rainfall is about 25 inches per year, which produces sufficient grass on the rich soil to carry about one sheep to each acre throughout the year. Ordinarily the sheep receive no feed except the native grasses, but due to fourteen months' drouth, the grass was short in February when I visited there and yearling rams were receiving some ground linseed cake in addition to their grazing.

At present about 1000 pure bred Corriedale ewes, 600 grade ewes and their produce are run on the station as well as about 200 head of cattle. The breeding ewes, yearling ewes and rams, together with the lambs and cattle, stock the 3500 acres in the estate to a safe capacity.

An interesting feature of the formation and development of this flock is that all the sires used in it have been bred within the MacFarlane flocks or have been secured from the New Zealand and Australian Land Company. Thus, since the original cross was made in 1847 with 800 ewes, no other blood has been introduced. Constant selection and skillful breeding within the flock have brought a high degree of uniformity.

The wool clip is rated as one of the best of its kind in Australia. The wool is long and strong and is usually classed at 50-56s, which is approximately equivalent to our own three-eighths-blood. The flock shears well, having sheared as high

as 12½ pounds straight through while at Narrabri.

In his selection of sires, Mr. MacFarlane endeavors to keep about midway between the two extremes represented by the original parent stocks and to secure real combination of wool and mutton.

That he has been successful in meeting the demand for that type of a sheep is shown by his prize winning, exports to other countries, and the fact that his surplus breeding stock always meets with a good demand at favorable prices.

R. B. Millin

PRIZES OFFERED IN 1926 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL

Approximately \$1500 will be awarded to winners in the sheep division of the 1926 Pacific International Live Stock Show at Portland, Oregon. Eight prizes—\$14, \$12, \$10, \$9, \$7, \$5, \$3 and \$2—are offered in each class in the Rambouillet, Shropshire, Hampshire, Oxford, Cotswold and Lincoln breeds. For Southdowns, Dorsets and Romneys, there are six awards, with \$12 the first and \$10, \$9, \$7, \$4 and \$2, the graduations. In all of these breeds \$10 will be given for the champion ram and a like amount for the champion ewe.

Ten, six, four and two dollars are listed as the prizes in each class for the Cheviots, Corriedales, Border Leicesters, English Leicesters and Delaine Merinos. The champions in these breeds receive \$5.00 each.

The classes for all breeds are as follows: Ram, two years old and over; ram, one year old and under two; ram lamb; ewe, one year old and under two; ewe lamb; flock, open, to consist of ram one year old or over, two yearling ewes, two ewe lambs; flock, bred by exhibitor, to be composed as listed above; pen of three ram lambs, to be bred by exhibitor; pen of three ewe lambs, to be bred by exhibitor; get of sire, one ram one year old or over, one ram lamb, one yearling ewe and one ewe lamb; produce of ewe, four animals any age, either sex; champion ram and champion ewe. Attention is called to the fact that the class for ewe, two years old and over, is eliminated and that there is a change in "flock," "get of sire" and "produce of ewe."

UTAH HAMPSHIRE CLUB

Wasatch County, Utah, particularly that part in the immediate vicinity of Heber City, has taken the lead in promoting interest in the Hampshire breed of sheep among junior farmers. Hampshire clubs have been formed among students doing school and club work, organized under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes law providing for federal assistance to

Fifteen ewes and lambs from the Heber City Hampshire Sheep Club won nineteen prizes at the last Intermountain Livestock Show in Salt Lake City. The boys in this club also exhibited their sheep to good advantage during the Farmers' Institute held recently in Heber City under the direction of the Extension Service of the Utah Agricultural College. These boys are now working earnestly to make an

cality. His brother, according to County Agent Lyman H. Rich, will be leader of the Hampshire Club in Heber during 1926.

WYOMING STARTS DEMONSTRATION IN CULLING FOR HIGHER FLEECE YIELDS

D. N. Speas and N. J. Speas, wool men south of Casper, have agreed to enter into a five-year culling program, starting at shearing time this year, under the direction of the Wyoming Extension Service Wool Department. The department is urging the culling out of low producing ewes and rams in an effort to build up the production of flocks.

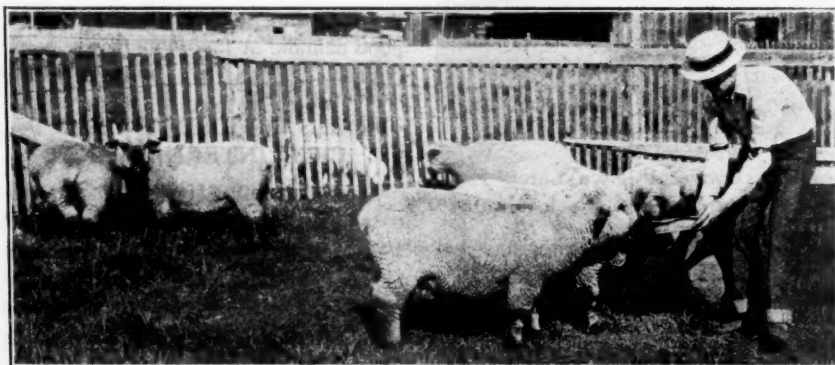
Dean J. A. Hill, wool specialist of the University of Wyoming, and D. J. Robertson, livestock specialist, of the extension service, will assist in this improvement program. Mr. Speas has a band of around 2,600 head, and shearing commenced at his shearing pens the last week of May.

The object of this demonstration is to show that the returns from the ewe band within certain limits can be increased by careful culling of the individual sheep each year and the mating of high producers with carefully selected rams that are also high producers.

The goal it is hoped to reach by the end of the five-year period is to increase the average weight per fleece two pounds. If this kind of a goal can be reached, one can readily see the immense value a sheepman can derive through culling.

A standard weight will be set of six and one-half pounds. Each fleece will be weighed as the sheep is shorn and all sheep shearing this amount or under will be branded with the letter "L" light, and will be discarded from the band. The standard weight will be raised one-half pound each succeeding year and the culls discarded. Not only will the weight be taken into consideration, but the fineness and length of staple, character and condition of the ewe itself and the shrinkage of the wool will be considered in arriving at the culls. The rams used on the band will be carefully inspected and advice given publicity through the press and at public meetings.

Leon Shaw.



Rilvas Thomas and his Flock, Members of the Heber Hampshire Club.

vocational education. This work is done under the direction of their high school instructor, Sumner Hatch; while the County Agent has formed other clubs among boys not in Smith-Hughes work. As a result of a cooperative effort made about eighteen months ago by the Wasatch County High School and the Bank of Heber City, forty pure bred Hampshire ewes were purchased by Boys' Club members. Sixty-six additional ewes were added to the boys' flock this year.

even better showing at the Wasatch County Club Show to be held in Heber City next August.

One of the most active and successful members of the Heber Hampshire Sheep Club is Rilvas Thomas, who purchased five of the first ewes imported and from these raised six lambs. The accompanying photograph shows Thomas with some of his purebred Hampshires. He is a Smith-Hughes boy with a general interest in boys' and girls' club work in his lo-



Ewes belonging to members of the Nebo Club, Wasatch County, Utah.

The Valuation, Shearing and Selling of Western Wool

By Professor M. G. Snell, Colorado Agricultural College

Marketing of his wool is one of the most difficult problems the wool grower has to solve. It is a difficult problem to him because he usually does not know the true value of his wool and usually is not in position to keep up with the market trend.

First of all the grower seldom knows the approximate grade and shrinkage of his wool. This it is necessary to know in order to calculate the value of a clip at the ranch or shipping point. Such information is furnished by the agricultural experiment stations of some states by scouring and grading wool samples for the growers. However, the shrinkage percentage is only an approximation, as fleeces vary in shrinkage from year to year and in different localities. In general, the lower grades of territory wools shrink from 50 to 60 per cent and the finer grades about 65 per cent.

Market information may be obtained through the United States Department of Agriculture's Market News Service. The Market News Service publishes a daily and a weekly wool bulletin which give market quotations and general market news. The Daily Wool Market Report gives the condition of the market and Boston quotations on domestic wools daily. The Weekly Review of the Wool Market gives the condition of the Boston market, trade in and market quotations of the different grades of domestic wool, and the trade in wool at the principal foreign markets.

Due to the great variation in shrinkage, territory wools are quoted on a scoured basis. In order to estimate the ranch value of wool from these quotations, at least the approximate grade and shrinkage must be known. Multiply the clean value in Boston by the yield expressed as a decimal. This will give the grease value in Boston. Deduct an amount sufficient to cover freight, insurance, and profit. This will give the market value at shipping point. The maximum freight rate

on wool to Boston from points in the range territory is \$2.70 per hundred pounds. The charges for insurance and storage are comparatively small but amount to a good deal when continued for six months or longer. This year however many clips of western wool have been delivered by the dealer to the manufacturer direct from the car.

For example, suppose we have wool which will grade as fine strictly combing and shrinks 70 per cent. A pound of grease wool will yield .3 of a pound of scoured wool. At the quoted price of \$1.15 clean basis, this wool is worth \$1.15 times .3 or 34.5 cents in the grease. If the allowance for freight, and necessary expense or profit is 4 cents per pound the ranch value is 30.5 cents. Taking the same grade of wool at the same price, making the same allowance, but working on a basis of 60 per cent shrinkage, instead of 70 per cent, it will be found that the home value is 42 cents.

Factors Affecting the Value of Wool

A fleece to be good must be uniformly good; that is, it must be as uniform as possible in fineness, length, and strength of fiber; free from kemp, beard hairs, black and colored fibers; not excessive in yolk; free of paint or tar brands; and comparatively free from dirt and foreign material.

Although we cannot expect to get wool of an even length and fineness over all parts of the body, we desire fleeces with as little variation in these respects as possible. Fleeces which have a wide variation in length are likely to be classified according to shorter fibers; likewise, fleeces which have a wide variation in fineness of fibers are likely to be graded on the coarser fibers. As fleeces are valued largely on the length and the fineness of the fibers, it is highly desirable to have fleeces as uniform as possible in these respects.

Weak or "tender" wool is that having

fibers with weak or "tender" places in them. Tender wool may result from a variety of causes, such as changing from succulent to dry feed, a feverish condition due to lambing, periods of sickness and to prolonged periods of semi-starvation such as frequently occur on our western ranges. Drought and poor ranges are, no doubt, the most prevalent causes of tender wool in this state. Wool produced during a severe drought is very likely to be tender; likewise, wool produced by sheep wintered on poor ranges, is likely to be tender. Wool buyers keep in touch with range conditions and are cautious in buying wool from a territory where the ranges have been poor. Tender wool is objectionable because the fibers break in the carding process and cannot be used as combing wool; consequently it sells as clothing wool and at a lower price.

Shrinkage and Price

The amount of yolk, dirt, sand, etc., determine to a great extent the grease value of wool in the grease. This grease and dirt is scoured out in the scouring process, leaving the clean wool. Consequently, wool with high shrinkage, i. e., scouring out a high per cent of yolk, dirt, sand, etc., is less valuable than similar wool which has a low shrinkage. As shown above a difference of 10 per cent in shrinkage causes a difference of 11.5 cents per pound in the grease wool when it is of the grade and quality selling at \$1.15 per scoured pound. A certain amount of yolk is necessary to keep the wool in good condition; however, sand, dirt, and other foreign matter have no manufacturing value.

Foreign organic matter such as burrs, trash, sisal fibers, etc., are especially objectionable because a great deal of this material cannot be removed by machinery. If left in the wool it will cause a flaw in the cloth. Such material must be removed by hand, or the wool subjected to a process known as carbonization. Either method is costly. The extra cost

of removing this material is reflected in the lower price paid to the producer. Likewise, oil paint or tar brands are objectionable because the paint or tar is not removed from the wool fibers in the scouring process.

Grades of Wool

Wool varies in value according to its fineness and length. Other things being equal, the finer the wool the higher the price. Likewise, wool which is of sufficient length to be made into worsted cloth is of higher value than wool of shorter length.

The grades of wool according to fineness are as follows:

Fine, one-half blood, three-eighths blood, one-fourth blood, low one-fourth blood, and braid. Wool is graded according to length as strictly combing, French combing, and clothing. The tentative grades according to length as set forth by the United States Bureau of Markets were as follows:

| | Clothing | French Combing | Strictly Combing |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Fine | Under 1 1/4" | 1 1/4" to 2 " | Over 2 " |
| Half blood | Under 1 1/4" | 1 1/4" to 2 1/4" | Over 2 1/4" |
| Three-eighths | Under 1 1/2" | 1 1/2" to 2 1/2" | Over 2 1/2" |
| Quarter | Under 1 1/2" | 1 1/2" to 2 3/4" | Over 2 3/4" |
| Low quarter | Under 2 " | 2 " to 3 " | Over 3 " |

Foreign wools, especially English and Australian wools, are usually quoted in market quotations on the basis of Bradford spinning counts, the English system of grading wool. A comparison of the two is given below:

| U. S. Standard | Bradford Counts |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 66's and 70's | Fine, extremely fine wool |
| 64's | Fine, medium |
| 60's | Half-blood |
| 58's | Half-blood, low |
| 56's | Three-eighths blood |
| 50's | Three-eighths, low |
| 48's | Quarter blood |
| 46's | Low quarter blood |
| 44's and below | Common and braid |

Preparation and Storage

The value of a fleece may be materially lowered by improper shearing, the use of sisal or jute twine in tying, or by the indiscriminate sacking of different grades or colors of wool together.

Careless shearing may detract much from the value of a fleece which is otherwise well grown. The first precaution is to have a clean place on which to shear.

Smooth, close shearing is essential if the fleece is not to be damaged. It often-times happens that the shearer in shearing

fails to follow the contour of the sheep's body and does not cut the wool close enough. He then goes back and makes a "second cut." This cut is of less value than the longer wool and has also damaged the first cut by shortening its staple. Hand and machine shears are used but machine shearing is much more popular because it is performed more easily and quickly. Also, there is less danger of cutting the sheep and fewer second cuts are made than when hand shearers are used.

A few wool growers make a practice of sacking their wool without tying. This is a poor practice because the fleeces become hopelessly mixed and cannot be sorted. Glazed paper twine is used for tying by the majority of wool growers. Sisal twine is especially objectionable as it sheds fibers into the wool. These fibers cannot be removed without great expense, and if left in the wool, result in a flaw in the cloth. Wool tied with sisal twine is classed as reject, along with burry, chaffy and other defective wools.

Many larger breeders attempt to sack their buck, ewe, lamb and black fleeces separately. Buck fleeces, especially from the fine woolled sheep, are heavy in grease and should be sacked separately from the ewe fleeces. Lamb wool is longer and finer than the wool from mature sheep. It usually falls into the strictly combing class. The extra value may be lost to the grower unless this wool is sacked separately. Tags and dung locks ordinarily shrink more than the fleece proper and are worth about one-third as much as good wool. Some growers make a practice of removing the tags, dung locks, and sacking these separately; others do not, claiming they receive no more for their wool and that they are docked on the price they receive for the tags.

Black wool is usually, though not always, sacked separately from the white wool. Black fibers get mixed in with white wool whenever black and white fleeces are sacked together. As it is almost impossible to remove the black fibers once they are mixed with the white, the value of the white wool is lowered. Burry and defective fleeces should be sacked separately from wool which is free from these defects, otherwise all will sell on the basis of burry or defective wool.

Wools which are sacked while wet or become wet while in storage, heat or "fire." These wools will not scour out a pure white, consequently their value is lowered. Wool should be stored in a clean dry place, and preferably off the ground if it is not sold immediately after shearing.

Wool Markets

The leading wool market in the United States is Boston. Eventually more than 50 per cent of the wool which is marketed in this country finds its way to Boston. Ninety per cent of the mill consumption of wool in the United States is in the North Atlantic States.

On the average, more than half of the wool consumed in this country is imported principally from Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and South Africa. Boston receives the greater portion of this. This high percentage is due to the fact that all carpet factories use a low grade coarse wool that is not grown in the United States. American flocks furnish from 60 to 70 per cent, in average years, of the wool used by American mills for all clothing purposes. Other important wool marketing centers are Philadelphia, Chicago, New York, Portland, Oregon, and San Francisco.

Agencies of Wool Marketing

The fact that the wool producing centers and the centers of wool consumption are so far apart has given rise to a number of intermediate agencies between the producer and the consumer. The number of these intermediate agencies or middlemen varies in different localities, at different times, and with changing market and economic conditions. Fleece wools usually are handled by a greater number of middlemen than are western wools. This is due chiefly to the fact that western wools are produced and marketed in larger lots than are fleece wools.

The chief agencies are: local wool dealer; local pool or cooperative wool grower's association; state dealer or state cooperative wool growers' association; central market dealer; commission merchant; broker and manufacturer. Wool is never handled by all these intermediary

agencies. The more important functions of principal market agencies are as follows:

Local wool dealers: The local dealer is usually a local merchant who devotes part of his time to buying the small clips of wool in his vicinity. He buys small lots of wool, assembles them into larger lots and resells to a larger dealer.

Local pool: The local pool is usually an association of local growers formed for the purpose of assembling wool in sufficient quantities to attract representatives of the larger central markets. The wool assembled may or may not be graded, but usually is not. The local pool may sell to a state dealer, a central market dealer, a commission merchant, a broker or a manufacturer's representative.

State or regional pools or cooperative wool growers' association: A state or regional cooperative wool growers' association is similar to a local pool, except that it is likely to be more highly organized and to handle larger quantities of wool. Because of the larger quantities of wool handled, a state or regional pool is more likely to attract manufacturer buyers.

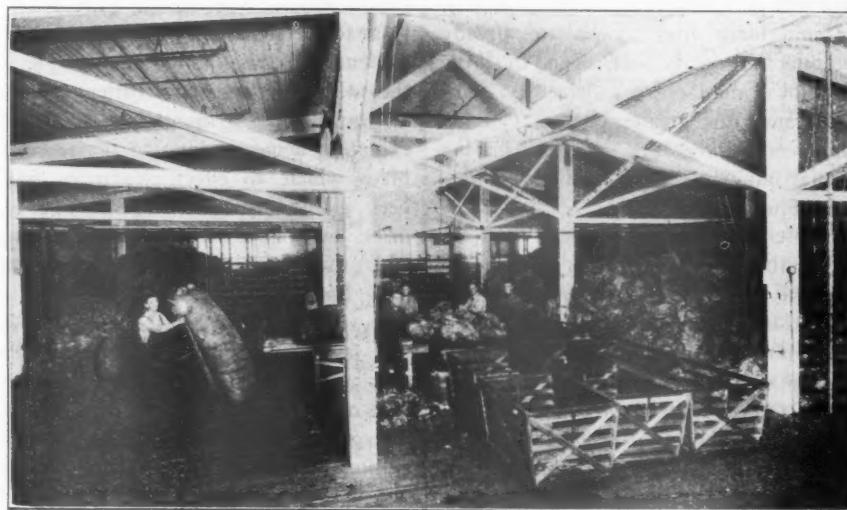
State dealers: A state dealer performs essentially the same functions as a state or regional cooperative wool growers' association in that he collects wool from a state or region. He buys and sells for himself. In this respect he is different from a cooperative association in that the association buys and sells for the mutual benefit of its members.

Central market dealer: A central market dealer usually assembles wool in large quantities from a variety of sources and representing a wide variety of classes and grades. He may or may not deal in foreign wools. He usually has agents in the most important wool producing areas of the world and at points of concentration where wool is sold either at auction or by private treaty. His chief function is that of assembling wool at a point where it can be inspected by the manufacturer and of grading in such a way as to meet the manufacturers' needs. The central market dealer may buy direct from the producer or from anyone who assembles wool. He usually sells to the manufacturer but he may sell to a broker or to another central market dealer.

Commission merchant: The commission merchant performs essentially the same functions as the central market dealer. He differs, however, in that he does not buy and sell for himself. He accepts wool for his clients, stores, grades, and sells it, charging a commission for his services. He usually sells to a manufacturer, but may sell to a broker.

Broker: The broker stands nearest the manufacturer in the chain of marketing agencies. He usually acts as the immedi-

The first method involves the services of the local dealer. This method is employed most frequently in the fleece wool states but is followed to a limited extent in the range states. Such dealers buy small lots and put them in acceptable shape for the next marketing agency in line. In most localities this method of sale has proven unsatisfactory to the grower. Neither the buyer nor the grower knows the true value of the wool, consequently most of the wool sold to the



Grading wool in the Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers Warehouse.

ate representative of the manufacturer. His chief function is assisting the manufacturer in locating and getting exactly the kind and grade of wool he wants. He may buy from any source and sell to any other, but he usually sells to the manufacturer.

Manufacturer: The manufacturer is the consumer of the raw wool in that he takes the wool as it has been graded, sorts each fleece into various qualities and manufactures them into articles of commerce.

Methods of Marketing Wool

The methods of marketing wool in the United States are as follows: (1) Through the local dealer; (2) direct to local mills; (3) direct to central market dealers; (4) by consignment to commission merchants; (5) through local wool pools; (6) through state or regional cooperative wool growers' associations; and (7) direct to the wool manufacturer.

local buyer is sold at a flat rate. In many localities small growers have found it to their advantage to sell through a cooperative agency.

Selling to local mills is a popular method of marketing in section where mills are located in or near the producing areas.

The central market dealers find it to their advantage to send representatives into the producing regions to purchase wool. This method of sale is popular with western growers because the transactions are clean cut, there are no storage charges to pay, and there is no waiting for money. However, this method of sale has certain disadvantages for the grower. In the first place it is the buyer's business to get the wool at the lowest possible price, and naturally he does not pay any more than he has to. On the other hand, it is the grower's object to get the highest price possible. The grower is at a disadvantage in that he is not well

(Continued on Page 41)

Sheep Affairs in Australia and New Zealand

By A. C. Mills

Melbourne, April 16, 1926

Sheep breeders throughout New South Wales and the bulk of Victoria and South Australia have had their immediate anxiety as regards the seasonal outlook allayed by magnificent rains. These came just in the nick of time to fetch feed along and will go a long way to assure a good autumn lamb drop. Ewes are already lambing in the early districts and the drop, in point of numbers, is satisfactory. Unfortunately the greater part of Queensland remains very dry, and the lambing in that state is likely to be at least a partial failure.

The extent to which the dry spell affected the wool industry is difficult to estimate. The actual losses of stock, apart from Queensland and what is known as the northern pastoral country of South Australia, have not been heavy on the whole, though quite appreciable in some individual cases. On the other hand, it is practically certain that the sheep in the areas that suffered most from the drought will cut less wool and that it will be dustier than usual. As against this there is the probability that the bulk of the fleeces will yield better, i. e., contain less grease, which may compensate for the lighter weights.

Thanks to the improved seasonal prospects stock values have appreciated sharply. An advance of as much as \$2.40 a head occurred with fat sheep immediately after the break, and though they have receded somewhat since, the markets are firm. What is more to the point there is every indication of them remaining steady for some months, for with sufficient feed in sight graziers will be tempted to hold until after shearing. Early this week good average crossbred wethers, carrying about six months' wool, were selling at \$7.90 to \$8.65, fat aged ewes from \$6.70 to \$7.70, and prime lambs from \$7.20 to \$7.70 a head in the Melbourne yards to local butchers. Stores are equally firm, quite ordinary young wethers being worth up to \$6.25 and in lamb ewes up to five years old as much as \$8.40

each at auction, with younger ewes to \$9.60.

The wool selling season is rapidly drawing to a close. Auctions have been held in all Australian centers since last writing, with competition strong, insistent, and generally widespread in a quiet way. If France has not been buying quite as freely as formerly America has been more in evidence, so one country about balances the other. Prices show little variation on those ruling a month ago, the main exception being medium to coarse crossbreds which, to effect clearances, have been going a shade cheaper. The top prices lately have been realized in Sydney where up to 70½ cents per pound has been paid for Merino fleece. A number of sales were made there in the region of 60c. The last mentioned figure represents the maximum realized in Melbourne and Geelong during the month.

According to statistics issued by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers but 323,973 bales of the 1925-26 clip remained in store and unsold on March 31, the total receipts to that date being 2,099,058 bales. Final sales for the season, except for oddments, have already been held in Perth and Adelaide, and the last in Victoria takes place today. That only leaves auctions in Sydney and Brisbane next month. Such a complete clearing up must be satisfactory to brokers as well as growers, for it is the first occasion since the war that they have seen their store free. The new clip can hardly be available in volume much before the end of September, so the selling trade is in for a decent rest.

The National Council has also published a return giving values realized in Sydney during March. This for all greasy wools averaged 33 cents and for scoureds 46 cents per pound, giving an all round average of 34 cents. The general average for February was 33½ cents per pound.

Before leaving this subject it may be of interest if I quote a few figures relative to the finances of some of our largest wool broking and pastoral firms. The

balance sheets of five—Dallgety and Co.; Australian Mercantile Land & Finance Co.; Goldsbrough, Mort & Co.; Australian Estates & Mortgage Co.; and New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Co.—have been grouped. The firms operate in more than one state and besides being straight out brokers control large pastoral properties and act more or less as commercial agents and merchants. Their combined capital is \$35,723,235, exclusive of \$526,165 at reserve and undivided profits. On this they last year made net profits of \$6,505,390, equal to 11.56 per cent. The combined net profit for 1923-24 was \$4,765,430, representing 9.91 per cent on the then capital. Quite a material proportion of the shares in the companies are held by graziers, and it is no question of bleeding the latter for the sake of an idle investing class. The dividends paid during 1924-25 amounted to \$3,903,035.

March was rather a dry month in New Zealand. Parts of the North Island would have liked to have seen more rain but taking the season by and large conditions are not bad by any means. The marketings of stock have been about normal, and the packing companies have advanced their limits in some cases. At the end of March they were paying dressed weight basis, 11¼ cents a pound for light wethers, 9¼ cents for heavy wethers, and up to 17½ cents for the best light lambs in the North Island. In the Canterbury, South Island district, the buying rate was 12½ cents per pound for light wethers, 10½c for heavy wethers, and 8 cents to 8½ for ewes, 20 cents for prime lambs under 36 pounds, 17½ for lambs 36 to 42 pounds, and 15½ cents for those over 42 pounds. Practically all the export companies are killing with full boards and shipments oversea are heavy. Clearances last month totaled 142,000 carcasses of mutton and 553,000 carcasses of lamb.

As is the case with Australia the wool selling season is drawing to a close in New Zealand. A firm market was reported at the sales held last month and in most instances a distinct advance in values recorded. Taking the last Wellington sale as typical (held on March 26) we see that fine wools were 2 cents per pound dearer, with average crossbreds unchanged.

Methods of Stabilizing Lamb Prices

An Examination of Lines of Action Proposed for Steadying Lamb Prices.

This article has been prepared as a summary and criticism of various proposals that have been made for producing a greater degree of stability in the price of lambs at the principal markets.

The object of the National Wool Growers' Association in promoting these studies and discussions of lamb markets and prices may concisely be stated in these words: "To reduce the frequency and seriousness of price breaks in the principal lamb markets."

The immediate object is to decide upon the first single step that may be taken by sheep raisers' organizations in the near future with promise of opening the way for some useful degree of improvement in price stability without attempting too much and incurring rests of some unfavorable result.

It always must be recognized that absolute stability of lamb prices is not practical nor, indeed, is it to be desired. Western sheep men are not sympathetic with the idea of price fixing or guarantees. They want to have the benefit of higher prices when such are possible and want conditions to remain so that prices will advance when the relation of the demand to the supply calls for an advance. If the way is left open for advances there also must continue to be a possibility of lowering prices when demand and supplies get into a relation that is less favorable to the producer and seller. While these things are true there is room and need for prevention of a great deal of the price fluctuation from day to day and from week to week caused by irregularities in receipts by days or by weeks or at particular markets. The price drops which generally result from the runs that are excessive for a particular day and market injure the shipper. The consumer gets no benefit from such price changes, which are fluctuations and not general price movements caused by general supply and demand. The cheaper dressed product gives the packer an opportunity to make more profit if the demand holds up and thereby offset possible losses on other

sales, but on the average the packers would have as good a margin of profit with more steady figures on the cost of the live lambs. The retail butcher may get some advantage from the packers' being in position to make lower prices on carcasses from lambs purchased on a low market day but such advantage goes, at least in part, to average up results at other times when his costs were higher

Suggestions to Lamb Shippers For Stabilizing Market Prices

Get lambs on the market before August from sections where conditions permit early lambing and fattening.

Ship when in best condition instead of holding for extra weight, which often means that the later market is on a lower level.

Produce the highest possible quality—both in fat and feeder lambs.

Avoid as far as possible, the heavy receipt of feeder lambs on the same day with large runs of fat lambs on the principal slaughtering markets where prices are set. Study prospective supplies at the markets.

Ask your commission house to cooperate more fully with other commission houses in distributing supplies to avoid unnecessarily large runs at one market on any one day, particularly at Chicago in September and October—then support your salesman in conservative efforts to make the best possible distribution.

in proportion to his selling figures.

The commission salesmen at the stock yards get the same rate of compensation for selling no matter whether the market is higher or lower although bad markets make dissatisfied customers and are not relished by the salesmen.

The shippers are the ones who are the losers from these fluctuations in prices and they will be the gainers through anything that they or their organizations can do to make less frequent or less serious these drops in prices. The occurrences of these drops and their apparent relation to the extent of receipts have been presented in chart form in the issues of the Wool Grower for January 1926, January 1924, and December 1923. The grounds considering that unfavorable price fluctuations are largely caused by bad distribution of supplies will not be repeated here. Those unconvinced should look up the records of the 1923 and 1924 markets in the issues referred to above. The season of 1925 was one of exceptionally steady market prices except for the decline of \$2.00 between September 17 and 23, and which did not appear to be caused by faulty distribution of supplies of lambs or by extra large runs.

In 1924 there were drops at all the markets on August 24, September 2 and 14, October 12 and 26. The fact that these drops chiefly were due to bad distribution and excessive Monday runs is shown by the quick improvement in prices when the effect of each particular large run was over. A particularly striking example of this class of price fluctuation is found in the record of Monday, October 12, 1924, when Chicago had 41,000 sheep and lambs and Omaha 17,000. There was a drop of 50 cents at Chicago, though ordinarily such fluctuations affect all markets alike. The following day when each of these two markets had 18,000 prices were steady. It seems wholly probable that if these two days supplies had been better distributed, the Monday drop would not have occurred.

In the previous studies and discussion in the Wool Grower by the editor and Mr. Hugh Sproat, and in the reports of the Association's Committees on this subject attention has been centred upon the September and October markets. This has been because an especially large number

of sheepmen must sell in those two months and because the most serious effects of bad distribution upon prices have been evidenced at that time of the year. In the report of the Lamb Marketing Committee, rendered to the convention at Boise last January, it was urged that the association should employ a man in the fall months to secure a more even distribution of western lambs between the different markets and over the days of the week. The officers of the National Association have not found it possible to finance any considerable new activity, but recently have been in frequent consultation with commission salesmen in an attempt to secure a more even distribution of receipts in the first four days of the week. It seems likely that any action that can be taken should be especially valuable in the fall months of this year. While demand for both fat and feeder lambs promises to be good, there is likely to be considerably larger receipts at the big markets than last year and even a small stabilizing influence would be highly beneficial. Any attempt made in September and October of this year would, if successful, be of particular value and could be extended to other months. If not successful other lines of effort could be planned for other years. The problem is very large and difficult. It cannot be solved at once or altogether by any one action, but some attempt can be made, and when such is done the experience gained will show what else can be undertaken with a prospect of improving, even if not curing, a condition that is of great importance to sheep raisers.

In the expressions of various persons and committees considering this matter in recent years suggestions have been made which are here reviewed and appraised under six heads:

EARLIER LAMBING AND EARLIER SHIPPING

Price drops that occur in June, July and August usually are not so serious as those occurring in later months. Neither are they so largely due to the psychological effect of large or extensive receipts on any one day at any one market. While care needs to be exercised in the distribution of the lambs marketed in these three months,

it safely can be said that a large proportion of the year's crop can be disposed of in those months at an advantage in price to those who ship then and also an advantage to later shippers through decreased receipts in September and October. The practice of shed lambing appears to be growing and safely can be encouraged as an aid to orderly marketing.

Considerable advantage is also obtainable through the more general practice of marketing lambs when in the best condition, rather than holding them for increased weight and sale on a later market. The marketing of a larger proportion of lambs in ideal condition can be relied upon to react directly upon the consumer and the demand for lamb of that class. In the past it has sometimes happened that the extra price per pound for the lighter and better lambs was not sufficient to offset the advantage of selling a larger number of pounds even at a slightly lower price. It seems entirely probable, however, that the lighter and more desirable lambs will receive an increased premium at the markets and fully justify the practice of early marketing. One of the resulting advantages is more equal distribution through the season which means the removal of the principal cause of lack of price stability.

The question of earlier lambing and earlier marketing is not one for direct handling through organizations, except as results may be obtained through agitation, discussion and other educational methods.

REGULATION OF TIME OF LOADING AT POINTS OF ORIGIN

At the beginning of this investigation it seemed probable that the first effort to stabilize markets should be exerted in the attempt to control the time of loading in the range country. It was then thought that the loading could be regulated in a way to bring arrivals to the various markets with the kind of distribution over different days of the week that would be desirable.

It now appears, however, that it is not practicable to attempt to forecast the number or desirable receipts at any one market by as much as six or ten days in advance. Even if such could be done,

the shippers of lambs are not yet sufficiently organized to permit of their being reached quickly enough to allow them to change their plans for loading after the information obtained by a special office should suggest the desirability of deferring the time of loading. Also, in many cases lambs must be on the trail to the shipping point so long before the time of loading that a change of arrangements is impracticable.

SETTING ASIDE SEPARATE DAYS FOR HANDLING NATIVE AND WESTERN LAMBS

In the marketing of the 1923 crop some serious price changes seem to be clearly attributable to combinations of heavy receipts of native and western lambs at Chicago on Mondays and Tuesdays. The report of the Association's Lamb Marketing Committee as adopted at the convention in 1925 recommended that an effort should be made to induce farm organizations in native lamb states to adjust their marketing to avoid conflicts with receipts of western lambs. Further study has shown this to be impracticable.

In the case of Chicago, native lambs are received on Monday only from Zone 2, which in general represents the territory lying west of a line drawn north and south through Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Zone 1, between Cedar Rapids and Chicago, loads to reach the Tuesday market, but the zoning plan does not apply to feeding stations at which western lambs are held. From both of these zones most of the lambs reach Chicago without being unloaded for feed and water. They are principally shipped by dealers and co-operative associations. In very few cases is the commission man to whom the lambs are consigned advised as to the intention to ship or the date on which the stuff will arrive. However, a good indication as to the number of receipts each day is obtainable from the reports of car loadings assembled by railroads entering Chicago at about noon of each day. Since it apparently is impracticable to control the time of loading these native shipments, it seems to be practicable and well worth while to undertake

to regulate the number of cars of western lambs ordered in from feeding stations to be sold at Chicago on Monday and Tuesday in view of the probable supply of natives for those days as shown by the railroad reports. Native receipts are usually heaviest on Monday, which is the day on which most price drops occur or are inaugurated. Comparatively seldom is a price drop started on Tuesday, although a break on Monday often continues for a few days thereafter.

The proposal in this connection is that shippers and their commission salesmen at Chicago should cooperate more closely in regulating the number of cars to be ordered in for the Monday and Tuesday markets. Many commission salesmen are already using this information and making determined and useful effort to serve their customers by avoiding having too large supplies on Monday. In some cases, however, shippers do not authorize their salesmen to use their own judgment and insist on having their stuff on the Monday market when it would be to the interest of themselves and others to send only a part of their shipments in for that day and help to prevent a price reduction.

In this connection it must be also recognized that in the fall months when feeders are being handled quite largely that some considerable increase in receipts on Monday is justifiable and even can be permitted without injury to the market. On the other hand, it sometimes happens on Monday that a lower price is enforced even in view of limited supplies. On the whole, however, it can be considered as certain that much can be done through greater cooperation among the various commission salesmen to avoid heavy arrivals of westerns on days when native shipments are high.

DISTRIBUTION OF RECEIPTS AMONG MARKETS

A full study of receipts and prices at various western markets in recent years suggests that these frequent price fluctuations which are not due to general downward price trends and are usually recovered from quite quickly, originate mainly at Chicago and on Monday. The record of receipts and price changes at Chicago

and Omaha on Monday in September and October in 1924 and 1925, is shown below.

The price changes in the fall months of 1924 and 1925 were not general rises or falls caused by general supply and demand. They were fluctuations due mainly but not altogether, to avoidable irregularities in the distribution of the supply. These price declines seldom continued, in these two years, for more than a few days. The lamb buyers average up the rises against the drops and take care of themselves because they are buying all of the time. A shipper who was on the market in all of the weeks would also average out in good shape, but most western shippers must sell their years' crop in from one to three days of a single week, and few of them can sell in more than two different weeks. When they strike the bad days or weeks their

the market. There is no one remedy and no one single way in which the improvement will be secured, but the better distribution of western supplies among the different markets in the fall months is one of the ways in which western sheepmen can act to make marketing lambs less a matter of luck.

MARKETING FEEDER LAMBS TO AVOID DEPRESSION OF FAT LAMB PRICES

It is a general opinion among lamb shippers that the large numbers of feeders which are marketed along with fat lambs in the fall months and which run market receipts into high figures, serve to depress prices on both classes of lambs. The large runs received in September and October, even though they contain a very large number of lambs not used for slaughter have a psychological affect that

MONDAY RECEIPTS AND PRICE CHANGES AT CHICAGO AND OMAHA

| 1924 | RECEIPTS | | CHANGE IN PRICE FROM FRIDAY | |
|------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | Chicago | Omaha | Chicago | Omaha |
| Sept. 2, Tuesday | 35,000 | 43,000 | 25 cents lower | 50 cents lower |
| (Holiday on Monday)... | | | | |
| Sept. 8, Monday..... | 23,000 | 36,000 | No Change | 25 cents higher |
| " 15, " | 33,000 | 38,000 | 40 cents lower | 25 cents lower |
| " 22, " | 20,000 | 32,000 | 25 cents higher | 50 cents higher |
| " 29, " | 30,000 | 25,000 | 10 cents higher | 25 cents higher |
| Oct. 6, " | 32,000 | 25,000 | No Change | 10 cents lower |
| " 13, " | 41,000 | 16,500 | 50 cents lower | No Change |
| " 20, " | 20,000 | 6,500 | 25 cents higher | 15 cents higher |
| " 27, " | 38,000 | 8,000 | 35 cents lower | No Change |
| 1925 | RECEIPTS | | CHANGE IN PRICE FROM FRIDAY | |
| | Chicago | Omaha | Chicago | Omaha |
| Aug. 31, Monday..... | 35,000 | 18,500 | 15 cents higher | 10 cents lower |
| Sept. 8, Tuesday | 20,000 | 20,000 | 35 cents higher | 25 cents lower |
| (Holiday on Monday)... | | | | |
| Sept. 14, Monday..... | 18,000 | 33,000 | No Change | No Change |
| " 21, " | 28,000 | 38,000 | 25 cents lower | 50 cents lower |
| " 28, " | 20,000 | 23,000 | 50 cents higher | 25 cents higher |
| Oct. 5, " | 34,000 | 12,000 | 15 cents lower | 40 cents lower |
| " 12, " | 32,000 | 16,500 | 25 cents lower | 15 cents lower |
| " 19, " | 22,000 | 9,000 | 40 cents lower | 10 cents higher |
| " 26, " | 16,000 | 4,500 | 25 cents higher | No Change |

only solace is in the thought that one year with another their luck on the market will average out fairly well. Unfortunately the banker and others who must be paid don't receive payments on the plan of averages. To make lamb raising and selling safer and more efficient some of the luck should be taken out of the marketing and this is the object of the National Wool Growers Association in keeping the subject alive.

It is obvious that no system can be worked out, such as race tracks followers attempt, to know just when to be on

weakens the seller and strengthens the buyers and commonly results in lower prices being paid for fat lambs even though the number of that class on the market is no greater than usual. The relation of total receipts and numbers actually killed at seven markets in the past two years is shown in the table below:

It will be seen that while in 1924, the receipts of September and October at Chicago were about 200,000 more per month than in other months the increase in slaughter was 67,000 per month. Omaha receipts increased by 200,000 per month

**TOTAL SHEEP RECEIVED AND SLAUGHTERED PER MONTH AT
SEVEN MARKETS IN 1925 AND 1925**

| 1924 | Average per month in September and October | | Average per month in other 10 months | |
|------------------|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| | Receipts | Slaughter | Receipts | Slaughter |
| Buffalo..... | 89,300 | 14,800 | 98,720 | 20,620 |
| Chicago..... | 500,500 | 289,000 | 319,000 | 223,350 |
| Denver..... | 503,000 | 19,100 | 113,360 | 13,000 |
| Jersey City..... | 127,850 | 127,850 | 97,460 | 97,500 |
| Kansas City..... | 223,300 | 66,300 | 112,260 | 81,400 |
| Omaha..... | 403,500 | 148,60 | 203,700 | 120,420 |
| St. Joseph..... | 103,700 | 62,300 | 109,000 | 68,000 |
| 1925 | | | | |
| Buffalo..... | 92,400 | 8,150 | 77,580 | 10,270 |
| Chicago..... | 414,500 | 256,250 | 311,390 | 234,650 |
| Denver..... | 332,400 | 12,450 | 142,880 | 14,260 |
| Jersey City..... | 108,250 | 58,750 | 99,590 | 99,590 |
| Kansas City..... | 143,250 | 101,750 | 114,480 | 84,210 |
| Omaha..... | 292,100 | 114,650 | 183,540 | 129,270 |
| St. Joseph..... | 103,750 | 64,650 | 93,520 | 73,640 |

in that period, while slaughter was only 28,000 per month higher. In 1925, the September and October slaughter was lower than the average of other months. Kansas City received more, but slaughtered less in September and October. St. Joseph and Buffalo also killed fewer lambs in the fall period. The source of receipts at that time no doubt facilitated slaughtering a large proportion of requirements at those points, although Jersey City slaughtered considerably more than in the other ten months. It is plain that reductions that took place in fat lamb prices in September and October 1924 and 1925, were not due to overtaxing packers facilities for slaughtering and merchandising. It also seems certain that the increase of receipts due to larger shipments of feeders that left the market alive caused several breaks in the price of lambs actually purchased for slaughter.

How marketing of feeder lambs can be done to prevent injurious conflict with marketing of the fat end of the crop that must go at the same time is a problem, like all the others—difficult. It cannot be done altogether, or all at once; some improvement can be made by the shippers themselves and by the closer working relations between the shippers and their salesmen in the commission houses.

In 1925 the fat lamb prices were unusually stable, due in large part, to light receipts of feeders at the big markets as a result of heavy contracting of such stock in advance of delivery time. The early contracting of feeder lambs is a much safer business procedure than is the

advance contracting of wool. However, it cannot always be done and even in seasons when it is possible to make early contracts, it frequently happens that prices ruling at the time of delivery are equal to or better than those obtained through early contracting. It appears safest and wisest for raisers of feeder lambs, as individuals and as members of organizations, to undertake a more extensive marketing of feeder lambs by home sales at the time for fall delivery and in arranging shipment direct to the feed lots without necessity for handling at market centers. It is also possible by concerted action among shippers and commission salesmen to market a larger proportion of the thin lambs at the feeding stations adjacent to the principal markets rather than at the markets themselves. This would also affect saving in expense of yardage and dipping and would prevent some avoidable shrinkage in weight. While it is true that a considerable number of feeders who buy in small quantities prefer to buy at the stock yards, there are many more extensive feeders who will go to nearby feeding station to see larger strings of lambs of which representatives may have been in the yards on other days.

It has been objected that the extensive selling of feeder lambs outside of the markets might result injuriously through preventing the opportunity for quotations of values as established by public sales. However, it is true that feeder lamb prices to a very great extent follow and are determined by prices being paid for fat lambs. As long as the fat lambs are being chiefly sold at the markets, there

does not seem to be material prospects of injury through lack of quoted sales on feeder lambs.

**DISTRIBUTION OF RECEIPTS
OVER FIVE DAYS
PER WEEK**

The data obtainable upon this phase of past years' lamb marketing relate principally to Chicago. It is certain that the price drops are initiated on Monday many times more often than any other day. The fluctuations downward that come on Tuesday and Wednesday usually are continuation of reductions begun on Monday, although there are some cases in which lowered prices have been enforced during the latter part of the week.

The idea of controlling receipts on Mondays, at Chicago especially, to no more than to make up a desirable run in view of information to be had on Sunday regarding the number of natives on the road, has been discussed under another heading. As with other proposals of methods to help steady prices, one hundred per cent results cannot be expected from the best that can be done in keeping too large a proportion of the week's supply from coming upon the market on Monday. But there is need and opportunity at this point to do a good deal with promise of greater results, probably, than can be expected from any other single line of effort. The job is one to be handled mainly by the commission men through the advice and instructions given as to loading cars on Sunday at the feeding stations, to be on Monday's market. Some commission houses make extreme effort to get fullest information on the number of cars of natives reported as on the road for Monday and as to the numbers held at all the feeding stations and the number which other salesmen expect to have brought in, and to avoid getting their clients' lambs in on an excessive run. The Market News Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture makes an estimate on Sunday of the number expected to arrive on Monday. This is based upon the combined reports of the railroads as to the number of cars already loaded in native territory and

(Continued on Page 40)

The Wool Sack

BOSTON QUOTATIONS ON TERRITORY GRADES (MONTANA AND SIMILAR) CLEAN BASIS AND CORRESPONDING GREASE VALUES

| Grade | Price per Clean Pound(1) | CORRESPONDING GREASE VALUES | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| | | Per Cent Shrinkage | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 68 | 66 | 64 | 62 | 60 | 58 | 56 | 54 | 52 | 50 |
| Value per grease pound shown below for above rates of shrinkage. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fine and Fine Medium Staple..... | \$1.11 | 35½ | 37½ | 39½ | 42 | 44 | | | | | |
| Fine and Fine Med. French Comb'g | 1.02½ | 32¾ | 34¾ | 36¾ | 38¾ | 41 | | | | | |
| Fine and Fine Medium Clothing.... | .99 | 31½ | 33½ | 35½ | 37½ | 39½ | | | | | |
| Half Blood Staple (2)..... | .99 | | | 35½ | 37½ | 39½ | 41½ | 43 | | | |
| Three Eighths Blood Staple (2)... | .86 | | | | | | 36 | 37¾ | 39½ | 41 | 43 |
| Quarter Blood Staple (2)..... | .74 | | | | | | 31 | 32½ | 34 | 35½ | 37 |
| Low Quarter Blood Staple..... | .69 | | | | | | 28¾ | 30 | 31¾ | 33 | 35 |

(1) Average prices on scoured wools quoted by The Commercial Bulletin, June 5.

(2) Half blood wools commonly shrink from 56 to 60 per cent. Fine wools usually shrink 60 per cent or more. Three-eighths and quarter blood grades vary from 58 to 50 per cent shrinkage.

PRICES OF DIFFERENT GRADES OF WOOL

The tabulation of Boston quotations of clean wool prices and the corresponding prices for wool in the grease, as carried at the head of this department of the Wool Grower, is intended as an aid to the right determination of the value of grease wools on the basis of Boston quotations.

Different rates of shrinkage are shown for the various grades. It will be noted that while three-eighths-blood wools are quoted in this issue at sixteen cents below the price reported for clean wools of the French combing grade, yet the difference in the grease prices on the average shrinkages for those two grades is 3¼ cents per pound in favor of the three-eighths grade. At the present time the grease values are much more uniform than usual for the various grades of wool.

The tabulation shows that three-eighths-blood wools with a shrinkage of 52 per cent, which is somewhat below the average for that grade, are worth slightly more than fine staple wools shrinking 64 per cent, which rate of shrinkage is not far from the average for such wools, although some states and some particular clips of that grade have more than 36 per cent of clean content. However, the proportion of strictly fine staple grade in western fine wool is not large. The more common grade in range Merino flocks is the French combing. Fine wools as ordinarily sold in original bags contain

quantities of both these grades and usually there is a material amount of short clothing wool in the same sacks. In arriving at a fair estimate of the Boston value of a fine clip it will be necessary to compute the proportion of staple, French combing and clothing and to arrive at the actual value on the basis of the quoted clean values for these grades.

The relation of shrinkage to grease prices is particularly well emphasized in the case of the figures for half-blood staple wool. With a clean value of practically \$1.00 a pound, it is shown that each decrease of two per cent in shrinkage raises the grease value by two cents per pound, or, in other words, the grease value changes by one cent per pound with each variation of one per cent in shrinkage.

The allowance for freight between western points and Boston in no case exceeds \$2.70. This is the maximum rate applying from interior or coast points. The rate runs down to as low as \$1.94 from Cheyenne and varies between these rates at intermediate points.

WOOL PROSPECTS

Reports sent out from the Boston wool market since the first of June have been in much more optimistic and hopeful tone than those during the preceding weeks. While there still are considerable expressions of pessimism regarding the demand for goods, it is stated that manufacturers have been in more active mood

and that larger volumes of wool have been going out of the dealers' hands.

Considerable quantities of western wools of the new clip have been sold to manufacturers direct from the cars in which they arrived. It is reported that many of these transactions have netted the dealers around five cents per grease pound profit over and above cost and expense.

The season's closing sales in Australia maintained strong prices and the accumulations in Australia and South America are reported as having been cleaned up. At the reopening of the British sales, fine wools have continued in demand at firm prices, though there appear to have been some uncertainties and weak spots in the demand for wools of lower grades.

A business bureau operating in New York for the service of wool manufacturers, which until recently has been very pessimistic regarding wool conditions, is now urging its clients to make early purchases of needed supplies of fine wool.

A considerable volume of wool was offered in Texas concentration pools during the first week in June. A large part of the offerings was withdrawn and consigned to Boston houses for later sale at that market.

Since the improvement in the tone of the wool market there has been increased activity among buyers' representatives operating in the West to secure clips remaining unsold at prices previously prevailing.

The Boston Wool Market

By Henry A. Kidder

Another month has passed without bringing the desired improvement to the wool trade or to the wool manufacturing industry. Late in May there was some broadening in the demand. This was pretty well scattered over the list of available offerings, though perhaps a little more pronounced in wools suitable for woolen mill purposes. The trouble with the matter is that while the actual number of inquiries increased, the mills were only taking small lots—thousands of pounds where they ought to be buying hundreds of thousands. Many cases might be cited to support this, though it is not always easy to get accurate information regarding private transactions.

What is certain is that the feeling in the Summer Street houses is fully as depressed as at any time this year. One significant happening—a straw showing plainly the direction of the wind—is the retirement from the wool business of many of the younger element that came in with the World War and the boom years, but who are now finding it hard sledding to make their very modest overhead. This may be considered a belated liquidation of some of the war conditions, but looked at from the right angle, it is striking testimony to the current dullness of trade.

There has not been demand enough for either foreign or domestic wools to change the current of prices. The most that can be said is that nominal asking quotations have reached a point where the sellers hesitate openly to reduce their price-lists. This does not prevent the shading of prices where necessary to effect sales, and this is just what has been going on of late. Summer Street has been unable to find a stabilized basis of prices, the demand not being keen enough and the volume of sales not sufficient to indicate real values.

Attention has been called to the fact that foreign wools in bond have been shipped abroad in increasing volume lately. It would be very easy to place a wrong construction upon this movement; in fact, some are already doing so. The trouble is not so much the price—there is

no market here for the wools being exported at any price. On the other hand, France and Germany, and Belgium and Italy, to a lesser degree, are keen for the available wools of this character, and are able to take over at rather better prices than could be obtained here. So many of these wools are offered in this market, and the demand is so slack, that mill buyers are having their own way over prices. This explains the increased outward movement lately noted. If the Boston market were normal, there would be no difficulty in disposing of the wools to American mills, though the duty of 31 cents a clean pound is also a factor.

This is the time for heavy arrivals of wool from Australasia. As recorded by the Boston Grain & Flour Exchange, arrivals of foreign wool at the port of Boston during the month of May included 7,326,700 pounds from New Zealand and 3,886,100 pounds from Australia. A total of over 11,000,000 pounds from this source alone is no mean total, supplemented as it is by over 4,757,000 pounds from River Plate markets and other millions of pounds from the United Kingdom, the Continent, the Near East and the Far East, and various sources of origin, swelling the figures for the month, according to the above authority to over 20,000,000 pounds. Though it is probably true that a large part of these arrivals came direct to the mills, it is apparent that more foreign wool was thrown onto the Boston market in May than could be comfortably digested.

Conditions here have been promptly reflected in the movement in Western primary markets. Manufacturers and mill buyers have been insistent that prices should be held as far as possible at a fixed level—one that would enable them to make and sell goods at a profit. Low prices is the continuous cry from that direction. Not cheapness in the sense of poor quality, though it has been previously remarked that the mills have this year been willing to accept and use qualities and grades which they have hitherto given a cold shoulder. Something of the kind

is the inevitable accompaniment of the present attitude of goods buyers. It is an enlightening feature that the big garment manufacturers of New York and Rochester, Chicago and elsewhere, showed big profits in 1925, while the mills making the goods used either made no money or were forced to draw upon their surplus.

News that filters through here from the Territory wool sections indicates that the growers are willing to accept prices below the levels established in the making of the early contracts and the transfers of early shorn wool. This is not true of all cases, but enough is being done so that the Summer Street houses all claim to be getting some wool on the lower basis. Striking illustration of this modified attitude was afforded by the unexpected sale of the Jericho wools to a St. Louis firm at 34½ cents. These wools were offered early at an upset price of 40 cents. Later, this was reduced to 38 cents, with an accompanying threat to ship the wool to Salt Lake City and store, rather than sell for less. Hence the actual sale and its price came as a surprise to most members of the trade. Comparison with the figures received during previous years shows that this is 7½ cents below the price realized in each of the two years just past and compares with an average for the past seven years of 42.8 cents.

Early June promises to be a period of activity in Texas. Hitherto, all that has been done has been in that state is to take over some small country lots or independent clips. Early contract prices were up to 40 cents, and for one small clip 41 cents was reported paid. This level was soon found to be too high, and prices dropped to 37 to 38 cents and then to 35 to 36 cents. Consequently, there is much interest to see what eastern buyers bid and what the pool managers accept. At Kerrville, bids must be made for the wools as an accumulation, but at the other points, bids will be accepted for individual clips.

Conditions abroad remain strong. The Australian season is going out with all markets firm and well-sustained, though perhaps not materially higher. The British strike caused Bradford to withdraw in large measure from active

buying, and America has been buying little, owing to the lack of suitable wools, especially in Brisbane, and also to unsatisfactory conditions prevailing here. The season is practically over at both Melbourne and Sydney, and all the minor markets closed the season in April.

Brisbane, as usual is the last to hold on, sales being held, with greatly reduced offerings during the last week in May and the first week in June. At these sales Japan and the Continent were the principal buyers. Another, and final, sale is to be held at Brisbane early in July, and as usual small clearing sales are to be held in June in Melbourne and Sydney, to dispose of the oddments and such belated arrivals as may be available.

Late advices from London report the market very quiet, with Merinos and fine crossbreds firm and coarse crossbreds less firm. This is about the condition existing when the series was postponed.

The season is also about over in the River Plate markets, though active work does not end there until the end of the wool year, September 30, which compares with June 30 as the end of the Colonial wool year. Second clip and Patagonian wools and the other Southern wools from Argentina are still being turned over, though the Continent is taking most of these wools, American purchases being largely confined to Montevideo and the better Argentine offerings.

Owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the Boston market, an intelligent survey of current prices is a difficult matter. All values are entirely nominal, as price cutting is going on steadily. As one shrewd buyer said recently, "there are too many selling wool." When the mill officials find anywhere from 15 to 20 salesmen's autos lined up before the mill office on any good morning, with their owners all keen to sell something, prices must either bend or break. Naturally, the mill buyers think if there is so much wool to sell and the dealers are so keen to get rid of it, there is nothing to be lost in buying small and playing the salesmen and their quotations off against each other.

That is just what is being done. It is a common experience when the salesman

or broker quotes a price and finds no trade, he asks for bids and tries to put them over, no matter how absurd. While only moderate declines have been noted during the month in the prices of Territory wools the nominal price-lists are said hardly to reflect actual selling prices. Fine and fine medium staple Territories are quotable at \$1.10 to \$1.15, clean, and the same figure is considered a fair quotation for good Twelve-months' Texas spring wool, though the latter is still coming forward very slowly.

Other Territory grades are quotable at 95 cents to \$1 for half blood staple, 85 to 90 cents for three-eighths-blood staple, quarter-blood staple at 75 to 80 cents, good French combing at \$1.05 to \$1.08 and fine and fine medium clothing wool at 95 cents to \$1. Short-stapled Texas spring wool is also quoted at around \$1.05 to \$1.08.

Summer Street houses are quoting the best Ohio and similar wools at about 44 cents for fine unwashed delaine, 43 cents for half-blood combing, 42 to 43 cents for three-eighths-blood combing, 41 to 42 cents for quarter-blood combing and 38 to 40 cents for fine unwashed clothing, with the usual differentials of Michigan, Missouri, and other bright and semi-bright wools.

The woolen mills appear to be doing a little better and are buying scoured, pulled wools and noils and wastes with a little more freedom. Scoured Territories

members during September of this year, so that the change could be put into effect in January, 1927.

Secretary Havenhill reported a membership of forty breeders and a registration of 1500 ewes and 900 rams.

Officers for this year were elected as follows: President, Eugene C. Tribble of Lodi, California; vice-presidents, A. H. Craven, Monmouth, Oregon; L. E. Brownell, Orland, Calif.; and Robert Miller, representative of the University of California; and secretary-treasurer, Mark Havenhill, Wooldand, Calif.

WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR RANGE SHEEP

The United States Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois, Idaho, has issued the following statement recently in regard to water requirements for range sheep:

Most of the range within the station reserve does not have a supply of natural water, and in order to use this range, water must be supplied by artificial methods. The most dependable method that has been used at this station is that of pumping water from a well (750 feet deep) into storage reservoirs and then hauling it as needed to the outlying water stations with tank wagons.

Accurate records have been kept for the four year period from 1921 to and including 1924. A summary of this data shows the following averages:

Average Daily Water Requirement Per Head

Ewes with lambs at side on green feed .84 gals.
Dry ewes on dry feed in the fall..... .75 gals.
Ewe lambs on dry feed in the fall..... .68 gals.

Cost of hauling water three miles for sheep, 1/4 cent per head per day.

Cost of pumping water from a deep well and hauling it three miles for sheep, 1/3 cent per day per head.

In calculating costs, only actual maintenance and operation costs such as labor, feed, power, oil and repairs have been considered. Interest on investment, taxes and depreciation have not been included.

MEETING OF ROMNEY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

The American Romney Breeders' Association held its annual business meeting on May 1, 1926, at Davis, Calif. One of the principal questions up for discussion was the amending of the second rule of the association. The fact was brought out that some breeders only register their sheep every two or three years, and in order to correct this practice, it was decided to authorize the secretary of the association to study the matter and prepare and submit an amendment to this rule for the approval of the association

FREIGHT RATE REDUCTION ORDERED—OVER CHARGES MAY BE RETURNED TO SHIPPERS

A reduction in freight rates on cattle and sheep shipped from points in Idaho, Oregon and Washington to eastern markets was recently ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission. According to the decision shippers may recover amounts equal to the amount of the reductions ordered, as paid upon shipments during two years prior to the filing of such claims.

The history of the case and the meaning of the changes are given below as written by the Secretary of the American National Live Stock Association.

In June, 1923, a petition was filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission by the American National Live Stock Association, the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon, and the Northwestern Live Stock Shippers' League against the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company, *et al.*, attacking the reasonableness of the rates on cattle and sheep to Chicago, St. Paul, Omaha, and other Missouri River markets, from points in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and western Montana. Examiner Kephart, who heard this case, submitted his report in March, 1925, in which he recommended the application, as maxima, of the mileage scale of live-stock rates prescribed by the commission in the South Dakota case (77 I. C. C. 451), to which should be added a differential scale for the distance west of Cheyenne, or the Montana-Wyoming state line, with the same rates per 100 pounds on sheep in double-deck cars as on cattle, and the same minimum carload weight of 22,000 per 36' 6" car.

The decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in this case was rendered April 3, 1926, by Division 4, consisting of Commissioners Meyer, Eastman, and Woodlock; Commissioner Meyer writing the decision and Commissioner Woodlock dissenting.

The commission agreed with the examiner that the present rates are unreasonable, and prescribed a maximum mileage scale to be applied in connection with the existing carload weights. The scale

established differs somewhat from the Kephart basis, and the minimum carload weights are not changed to conform with the South Dakota scale, as recommended by the examiner.

The findings of the commission, showing the territory involved and the maximum scale established, are as follows:

"Upon consideration of this record, we find that the rates on beef cattle, in carloads, and on sheep and lambs, in double-deck and single-deck carloads, from points on the lines of the defendants in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains, and in Montana west of Billings, on the Northern Pacific and Great Northern, Havre on the Great Northern, and Harlowton, on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul to St. Paul, Minn., Omaha, Neb., and points taking same rates, or rates related thereto, were, are, and for the future will be unreasonable to the extent that the rates to Omaha and St. Paul, and points taking same rates or rates related thereto, exceeded, exceed, or may exceed the rates for the respective distances set forth in the appendix hereto, subject to the present minimum weights.

"We further find that the rates from said points of origin to St. Louis, Mo., and Chicago, Ill., and points taking same rates, were, are, and for the future will be unreasonable to the extent that the rates to St. Louis exceeded, exceed, or may exceed the rates herein found reasonable to Omaha by more than 12 cents; and to the extent that the rates to Chicago exceeded, exceed, or may exceed the rates herein found reasonable to Omaha by more than 15 cents, or the rates herein found reasonable to St. Paul by more than 12 cents.

"In publishing rates in compliance with these requirements, defendants should publish specific rates from the respective points of origin to final destination.

"Rates from points in issue will still be relatively higher than the rates from points east thereof; but differences in transportation conditions warrant some difference in rates, and the showing made does not justify a finding of undue prejudice which will not be removed by the rates prescribed.

"Complainants offered little or no testimony by individual shippers in support of their claims for reparation. The hearing was held during the lambing season, when it was inconvenient and difficult for claimants to appear. Complainants, therefore, request that a further hearing be accorded, in order that a proper showing may be made in this respect. The record will be held open ninety days to enable complainants to file an application for such further hearing."

APPENDIX

Maximum Rates in Cents per 100 Pounds

| Miles | Beef Cattle | Sheep and Lambs |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1,000 and over 950..... | 63 | 70 |
| 1,050 and over 1,000..... | 65 | 72 |
| 1,100 and over 1,050..... | 67 | 74 |
| 1,150 and over 1,100..... | 69 | 76 |
| 1,200 and over 1,150..... | 71 | 78 |
| 1,250 and over 1,200..... | 73 | 80 |
| 1,300 and over 1,250..... | 75 | 82 |
| 1,350 and over 1,300..... | 77 | 84 |
| 1,400 and over 1,350..... | 79 | 86 |
| 1,450 and over 1,400..... | 81 | 88 |
| 1,500 and over 1,450..... | 83 | 90 |
| 1,550 and over 1,500..... | 85 | 92 |
| 1,600 and over 1,550..... | 87 | 94 |
| 1,650 and over 1,600..... | 89 | 96 |

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1,700 and over 1,650..... | 91 | 98 |
| 1,750 and over 1,700..... | 93 | 100 |
| 1,800 and over 1,750..... | 95 | 102 |
| 1,850 and over 1,800..... | 97 | 104 |
| 1,900 and over 1,850..... | 99 | 106 |
| 1,950 and over 1,900..... | 101 | 108 |
| 2,000 and over 1,950..... | 103 | 110 |

The following shows the present rates from representative points on the Union Pacific System to Omaha, compared with the maximum mileage scale established by the commission:

To Omaha in Cents per 100 Pounds.

| From Distance In Miles | On Cattle | Maximum | | On Sheep and | Maximum | |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------|-------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Present Rates | Mileage | Rates | Lambs | Present Rate | Mileage Scale |
| Pocatello, Ida. | 1,058 | 67.0 | 67.0 | 73.5 | 74.0 | |
| Shoshone, Ida. | 1,168 | 73.0 | 71.0 | 81.5 | 78.0 | |
| Boise, Ida. | 1,294 | 80.0 | 75.0 | 89.0 | 82.0 | |
| Huntington, Ore.... | 1,385 | 86.5 | 79.0 | 97.0 | 86.0 | |
| La Grande, Ore.... | 1,484 | 95.5 | 83.0 | 107.0 | 90.0 | |
| Pendleton, Ore.... | 1,558 | 95.5 | 87.0 | 107.0 | 94.0 | |
| The Dalles, Ore.... | 1,690 | 95.5 | 91.0 | 107.0 | 98.0 | |

The foregoing examples reflect the reductions in live-stock rates that will result from the decision. The maximum mileage scale established by the commission is on a fairly graded basis, as distinguished from the somewhat blanket method now prevailing on the western end of the territory affected, and the reductions are therefore greater from points between the eastern and western boundaries of this territory. In general, this Union Pacific territory has been on a high-rate plateau, and the decision of the commission partly corrects that.

Commissioner Woodlock, in dissenting, said:

"The rates assailed in this case appear to be at the most relatively unreasonable, and that only by comparison with various live-stock rates in the West and Southwest, which I do not believe can possibly be considered maximum reasonable rates. In view of the fact that live-stock rates in the West generally are before us in Docket No. 15686, as well as in Docket No. 17000, to award reparation on the strength of a surface comparison of this kind is, in my judgment, to run the risk of doing serious injustice to the carrier. I do not, in fact, believe that the assailed rates either are or were absolutely unreasonable—as they would have to be to entitle the complainant to reparation."

The new rates are ordered to go into effect on or before June 22, 1926. Live-stock rates to Denver will probably be readjusted so as to maintain at least the present relationship.

Mr. Coffin says he is getting more pure bred ewes than his range will run and wishes to dispose of 1000 head this fall, mostly Hampshires. See his ad page 3.

(Advertisement)

Conditions at the Lamb Markets

CHICAGO

Soaring fat lamb values during the month of May left an improved flavor in the mouths of winter feeders but did not eliminate the bitter taste that was a hang-over from earlier marketings of the 1925 fed crop.

The weather man was a very material factor in bringing the fed season to an auspicious close. California marketed late and the supply did not figure big in total receipts. Natives were held back by a late cold spring and haven't yet started to run in any volume. The Tennessee quota is relatively small and Kentucky is around three weeks behind its 1925 schedule. All these factors helped to make receipts for May small with the result that prices mounted from the start to the finish of the month.

Wooled lambs topped at \$16.00 to open the month at Chicago but this variety of the product had disappeared by the close of the period. When May was ushered in clippers were selling upward to \$14.50 but seasonal price levels outdid themselves and at the close all interests were paying upward to \$16.50. This price peak established a record for a period running back to May 18, 1920. All in all the year's fed lamb crop came to its termination without hindrance from early spring lambs and closing high price levels tended to reimburse many lamb feeders, at least partially, for earlier losses.

The proportion of heavy lambs included in the receipts was negligible and these received a much better reception than when Colorado finishers were making way with their excess supply of 94 to 110-pound fat lambs. In fact heavy fat lambs without fleece were selling anywhere from \$3.50 to \$4.50 higher than woolled offerings were bringing when the big decline was on in February and March. Choice 94-pound clipped lambs sold upward to \$16.25 on closing days or within 25 cents of choice light offerings while at the low time it was not an uncommon occurrence for big weight lambs to sell \$3.00 to \$4.00 down the price scale.

A few Idaho lambs have put in an ap-

pearance at the river markets but there is no indication of a sufficient volume of these to depress present high price levels materially at least until the latter part of June.

Kentucky is reported to be in condition to move its spring lamb crop in volume toward the latter part of May but the supply from that state will probably be well taken care of at eastern market centers. Early Tennessee lambs displayed a marked improvement in quality as compared with shipments from that state a year ago but Californias arriving at this market were far inferior to the lambs from that section in 1925. This deterioration in quality of the milk lamb will undoubtedly tend to weaken the demand for this commodity as the consumer once disappointed is not so apt to ask for a second treatment. The best that California could offer in the way of fat lambs brought \$17.25 but a spread of \$16.00 to \$17.00 took the major portion of the run. Few spring natives appeared but indicative of the superior quality many of these sold during the month at \$18.00 to \$18.50 and few dropped below \$16.75.

Feeder dealers were slow to take hold of the thin end of the California contingent which proved to be large relatively to the fat end. However, as the month drew to a close demand improved to such an extent that supplies were inadequate to satisfy orders and several shipments direct from the range were en route to corn belt finishers. Most California feeding lambs moved at \$13.25 to \$13.85 during the month, a few reaching a top of \$14.00.

Fat sheep after reaching the season's high point broke sharply but some recovery was noticeable late in the month when a dearth of total receipts forced killers to buy for numbers. At the high time fat woolled ewes were selling upward to \$10.50 with top clipped offerings at \$10.00, but at the close it took a choice light weight animal to secure \$7.75. This break in aged stock was directly attributable to increased marketings of grass fat sheep from the Southwest, Texas unloading freely during the month. Most of

the supply of southwestern sheep arrived on direct billing to packers and did not come in direct competition with natives and Californias that were offered for sale; nevertheless, too much mutton accumulated on the rails in the dressed coolers and a price break was inevitable. Several doubles of mixed lambs and yearlings from California helped to increase the volume of younger sheep on the local market but these, due to the scarcity of fat heavy lambs with which they usually compete, sold at relatively high levels, best securing \$14.75. When California ewes were offered they also brought peak prices usually selling at least 25 cents higher than fed natives. Aged wethers were a negligible quantity with prices \$1.00 to \$1.50 above quotation on fat ewes.

The advance on fat lambs was well supported by an active and greedy, dressed trade values in this branch of the industry standing around \$8.00 higher than a year ago. Coincident with rapidly advancing hoof values dressed prices moved up almost as rapidly and at the close buyers took hold of live lambs with the same gusto as when prices were considerably lower.

The month's spectacular advance on fat lambs was certainly acceptable to the finisher but if present price levels lull his caution into slumber he will probably again prove to be an optimist and fill his feed yards with thin lambs at too high a price.

Looking into the future the 1926 lamb crop should get over the first hurdles in fine shape. Early Idahos are **not expected** to meet with too many natives when they come to market and the usual sharp June break will probably be avoided. The decrease in the early lamb movement, however, will necessitate careful and orderly marketing if prices are maintained at respectable levels, when this year's lamb crop is turned loose in earnest. The months of September and October which furnish so large a percentage of **range** lambs cannot be expected to hold June prices, but with Idahos likely to run early in large numbers, a good dressed lamb

trade and a little improvement in wool markets the fall lamb market should be able to hold up reasonably well.

OMAHA

It was another month of steadily advancing prices in the lamb trade during May with shorn classes on the long end of the upturn. In most previous seasons it has been a case of lambs being held in close-in feed lots until about time for the California run to get under way and this was the case this year, but the movement from the above mentioned state failed to develop expected proportions with the result that packers were forced to resort to the fed shorn classes for their requirements with the market advancing over \$2.00 per cwt. on the clipped offerings and closing near the high point. The relatively small number of Californias that were here and carried flesh moved to packers fairly readily, but offerings included a large percentage of feeders on most occasions. The final week found a few loads of Idahos coming which were of considerably better finish than the California lambs, only serving to bear out the reports of excellent range conditions in most of the Northwest this season.

Supplies fell short of those of the previous month, totaling approximately 132,000 head and also showed a decrease of around 24,000 head from May, 1925.

While prices continued to display a strong attitude on the closing rounds of May every indication is that values have advanced so rapidly and consistently of late that the market has to some extent developed just a little top heaviness and any material increase in supplies would no doubt prove a depressing influence and result in a downward tendency. Eastern dressed markets have had very good support of late, but if the southern lamb crop begins moving eastward in seasonable volume within the next week or two it would probably weigh heavy on the trade and rather sharp declines should be registered. The wool market appears of a more or less stagnant character which would certainly act as anything but a stimulant on prices. With range conditions very good all through the North-

west prospects are for an earlier movement of lambs from the range states and any influx on the market from the range states would also contribute bearishness to some extent the latter part of June and the first of July.

Practically all the trade in the feeder division for the month was made up of purchases of thin lambs out of the few Californias received. Feeders took hold of the fair number at hand in fairly good shape, but penalized prices \$2.00 to \$3.00 and in some cases more from those paid for the fat end by killers. Bulk of the sales were noted in a spread of \$13.00@ \$13.75 with the close finding outlet mainly at the \$13.50 level. The first Idahos to get here included no feeding lambs to speak of and from all reports will include very few of the strictly feeder class this season due to the abundance of feed available in the range country this spring. The outward movement from the local market increased a little, aggregating 8,800 head for May, as compared with just 5,100 head in April and only 6,100 head in May, 1925.

It was a decidedly different story in the aged sheep trade in May than in lambs. Bulk of the offerings continued made up of fed ewes, mostly shorn, and with demand from local packers rather indifferent, uneven declines in prices were registered all along the line. A few small lots of ewes from the ranges were included in the months' supply of sheep and this also tended to add to the bearish feeling dominating the market with closing quotations around \$1.00@ \$1.50 under those prevalent at the close of April.

Clyde McCreary.

KANSAS CITY

The May market was the most pleasing morsel that came sheepmen's way this year. The few winter-fed lambs both in and out of fleece sold at the year's highest prices and spring lambs made a much higher average than in the same month last year. Winter-fed lambs in fleece sold up to \$16.75, shorn lambs up to \$15.65, and spring lambs up to \$17.50. These prices were far above expectations but favorable performance seemed to be the keynote in the market. The advance did

not come on a sufficient percent of winter-fed lambs to change the net losses that occurred in preceding months but it evened up in some spots and left a better feeling all the way through.

Arizona was an important supply source for spring lambs during the month and Texas supplied the big percent of the grass-fat sheep. The trend in prices was a steady advance from the first of the month until the last two days and then there was a moderate setback, but the net gain for the month was 75 cents on spring lambs and nearly two dollars on shorn lambs; no fed lambs in fleece arrived to test values. On the close Arizona, California, Idaho and Colorado spring lambs were quoted at \$17 to \$17.50, fully \$1.50 above May, 1925, and the highest in any May since 1919 when \$18 was the top. In other words May prices were not only the highest of any month this year but the highest ever known in the fifth month of any year in a peace-time period.

It is not difficult to explain why the high prices in May came as a surprise to the trade and at the same time why there was such urgent demand at the high prices.

Grass-fat ewes and wethers made up most of the fat sheep offered during the month. They sold the highest in the first two weeks, wethers reaching \$9.50 and ewes \$8.50. The close found wethers bringing \$8.00 to \$8.50 and ewes \$6.00 to \$7.00, or down more than \$1.00. Arizona was the largest contributor at the peak prices, and Texas got a heavy run under way that figured on the break. Texans loaded and broke the Fort Worth market and then the packers stepped in and made distribution at the decline direct to their plants in Kansas City, St. Louis, Omaha, St. Paul and Chicago. It has been many years, since Texas grass sheep received such a widespread distribution among packers.

About the only trade in feeding lambs was cared for by the culls from spring lambs and was more or less speculative in character. Demand for breeding ewes is much smaller than a year ago. However this will develop later as native lambs and flocks are culled out.

Because May prices have been unusual-

ly high there will be a rather sharp break in the next few weeks, but compared with other Junes, the market will probably make a favorable showing. Killers have a slight advantage in the situation because spring lambs will be available from all sources. The southern and southeastern states have started marketward, the corn belt will have liberal supplies of lambs for the next sixty days, and the Idaho-Colorado early fat lambs will be moved also. Because so few lambs have been placed under contract for future delivery, total receipts at markets from July to November will probably be materially larger than in former years, but in this connection it must be remembered that the movement will not be principally fat lambs as in the two preceding falls.

Sheep receipts in Kansas City in May were 154,655, an increase of 31,952 and for the five months 47,012, an increase of 71,944.

C. M. Pipkin.

DENVER

Sheep and lamb supply at Denver in May was little more than half that of the same month last year. The shortage was due to the fact that most feeders in this territory marketed their feed lot supplies early this year and also to the failure of the California supply of spring lambs to materialize in the volume predicted earlier in the season. Only 61,606 head of sheep were received for sale this year whereas total receipts at Denver in May, 1925, were 106,110.

Supply was short at all markets and the advance of April was continued throughout the month of May. Choice quality woolled lambs from feed lots were selling at the beginning of May at \$14.90 to \$15.10. By the middle of the month prices had advanced to \$15.40 on the same grades. Few fed lambs have been received since the middle of May as the supply is about exhausted. Spring lambs began showing up at markets about the middle of the month and selling at \$15.50. Values on spring lambs steadily advanced until at the close good quality Idaho lambs were selling at \$17.50.

Very little contracting of feeding lambs

for fall delivery is as yet being done in this territory. Feeders continue to maintain their attitude of refusing to purchase feeding lambs unless they can get them around \$9. Under present conditions it seems doubtful if they will be able to make purchases on that level.

W. N. Fulton.

ST. JOSEPH

Sheep receipts for the month of May were 88,151, compared with 112,535 the same month a year ago. Of the month's receipts, 27,416 came from California. The lamb market was in good shape throughout the month, closing prices being the highest of the period. No fed woolled lambs were received after the middle of the month, and the last sale was made at \$15.75. Fed clips advanced \$2.00 over a month ago with best at \$15.75 on the close. Spring lambs closed at 75c@\$1.00 higher, with best natives and Colorados at \$17.50 on late days. The first shipment of Idahos sold at \$17.15 on the 20th. Californias sold at \$17.25 on the close. Feeders, mostly cutouts from Californias, sold at \$12.50@\$13.75.

Aged sheep closed 75c@\$1.00 lower, with good clipped ewes at \$7.00@\$7.25 and wethers \$8.00@\$8.50.

EARLY IDAHO LAMBS

On May 24, two cars of Idaho spring lambs weighing 73 pounds were sold on the Denver market at \$16.85.

On May 26, seven double decks of Idaho spring lambs weighing 76½ pounds were sold in Omaha at \$17.60 straight. These had been shipped from Mountain Home. These were the first two shipments of the year, but several more cars are en route. It takes a coarse ewe to have a range lamb ready for market May 25.

Bliss, Idaho.

S. W. McClure.

A GOOD SALE OF WOOL

County Agent McConnell of Gooding County, Idaho, formed a pool of farm wools aggregating about 11,000 fleeces. This pool was sold to Web & Co. at 34

cents with an advance of \$1.50 per fleece at the time of sale, delivery to be about one month later. This is the best sale we have heard of this year. These farm wools are worth more than range wool, as the staple is longer and the shrinkage somewhat lighter. I have seen among these wools as nice fleeces as come from New Zealand. As far as farm wools are concerned, I am of the opinion that a pool, if properly handled, is by long odds the best way of selling them. The grading of these small clips is an intricate problem and the delay in selling when they are consigned is always an annoying feature.

Bliss, Idaho.

S. W. McClure.

YEARLING EWES SOLD

During the latter part of May, John Thomas of Gooding, Idaho, sold around 11,000 head of crossbred yearling ewes at \$11.50 per head. These were extra good yearlings purchased in Oregon as lambs. The tendency among buyers is back to the coarser-wooled sheep. Many have been using ewes three-quarters fine, but these same men now desire to switch back to the straight half-blood. The finer ewes fell down when it came to raising a 75-pound lamb by late May or early June.

Bliss, Idaho.

S. W. McClure.

SALE OF STILLWATER, MONT., POOL

Stillwater County's wool pool, the second largest in the world, has been sold to S. Silberman & Co., of Chicago, for 35½ cents according to John Logan, president of the Columbus State Bank. There were 95,000 fleeces, 750,000 pounds, in the pool and it brought a cent a pound more than the Jericho, Utah, pool of 800,000 pounds which in volume leads the world. The purchase was made by T. P. Mulvihill.

The Stillwater County Wool Growers' Association, which organized the pool, has a membership of 250. It has made tremendous strides in the few years of its existence and it is predicted that it will top in volume all wool pools in the world by next year.

Leon Shaw.

LETTER FROM A SHEPHERD TO HIS PAL

Morocco, Africa,

June, 1926.

Dear Ern:

We made the grade. Last night I turned Sarah over to her dad. But believe me, we had some trip! Take that night I was cornered in the King's bridal chamber. There stood that guard, and I could see the shadows of his spear and war club outlined against the door. The moon was bright, and there seemed no chance of me getting away. I had a vision of my finish. A tom-tom council, native oratory, and me on my knees, with the executioner standing aloft measuring the distance for a nice spectacular swing at my noodle.

It looked like it was all over but the flowers. Then I noticed a window, only a narrow slit about six inches wide, and jammed up against it a elephant had parked hisself for the night. They ain't got many elephants here; the King had took this one in on a war indemnity and he was mainly a source of pride. They called him Pluto, fed him on the fat of the land, and named their first-born after him. Now, elephants, Ern, are the smartest animals in all the world; they ain't afraid of nothing under the sun except mice; but of them they're scared to death. I heard of a battle, where they used guns mounted on elephants, that was lost to the enemy when he shot a bucket full of mice amongst the battery. That war unit simply went out of action and kept going.

Then, right in the midsts of my quandary, I saw a mouse scurry acrost the floor. I knew then that I was saved. With one joyful bound I scooped up Mr. Mouse, went over to the window, reached out and carefully lifted up Pluto's flap, and jammed that rodent down into his delicate ear as far as I could reach.

Well sir, you'd ortu've seen Pluto! At first he didn't seem prepared to go, and he sidled off sort of half cocked; but all of a sudden the grim truth dawned on him. That mouse had give a peep and started to claw its way out. Pluto opened his eyes wide, waved his trunk wildly, and screamed so you could almost under-

stand—, "Help! I've got a mouse in my ear."

He bowled over two mud huts before he really got started. Then he hit Main Street, knocked the props out from under the king's reserve harem, straightened out the approach to town and put in a new intersection, and back past the bridal mud where he grabbed that guard and tossed him up into a bread-fruit tree.

That was my happy cue and, giving the bride a warm squeeze of the hand and congratulating her on her wedding, I stepped out into the commotion.

You'd ortu've seen them natives! They rise early and frequent. Panthers, lions, and enemy attack has learned 'em to be limber on the rise; and it's the same with daylight. It moves. There's a brief sizzle along the eastern fringe, then a flare, and the new day blows up over the ridge and becomes a workable asset.

That's the way it was this morning. Daylight, the natives, Pluto—everything rose in a bunch. The natives are proficient climbers and in less'n two minutes the whole population was up in the trees. Over on the left the King was leading his harem up a tall palm, going up fast, going up. Everybody was putting on speed, getting off the ground. The king was shouting orders to his treed populace, with nobody paying any attention.

I looked around for Sarah, 'cause she probably wouldn't want to climb that way. There she was, almost dressed, all her clothes about her, only they wasn't fastened yet. I whistled at her and she waved her hand. Pluto, he heard that whistle. He looked over my way and he came. I didn't have time to get out of the way and a hush fell over the treed village. I saw a broad grin spread out over the King's face, and here was Pluto.

But what do you think he did? All atremble he staggered up to me, knelt down and raised high his trunk. Gently I slipped my hand down his ear and withdrew that said mouse.

Say, there was a elephant as was grateful! And smart. I was the only white man in town, and he came to me for relief. He just reached over, entwined me lovingly in his proboscis and set me on top of his big head, all the same Ringling Brothers. I fell right in line with his

idea and guided him by his ears. We stopped and picked up Sarah, then over to the Royal Palm and took on the King with a bevy of pet wives, back to the bridal mud and swung on the new candidate, and then on a general parade. Me, I wanted some music to go with the show. I motioned to the King and he got my drift. He shouted a order, and a few moments later the tom-toms started up, the flutes chipped in, and away we went, East-Side-West-Side, All about the Town.

By this time everybody was down out of the trees; the king shouted again, and the women got busy building fires and putting on kettles. Another order from the King, and a slave made a dive into a hut and brought forth a firkin of wine. He ran alongside and Pluto handed it up to us, passing it back and forth, giving us all a mornings morning.

We went on that way for a hour. It was almost like a Fourth of July. Then the King's Council lined up, the town band assembled, we heaved away the empty firkin and came to a halt.

The top orator stood up, adjusted his breech clout, and recited the history of the tribe. They've vanquished everything they've ever tackled. They're bold, brave, invincible.

The reply is up to me, and I insinuate that we can lick all of Africa and not half try. Then they ruined the tom-toms. The flutes went wild reaching for the highest notes, and the King, in a ecstasy of patriotic joy, fell off the elephant just like the Prince of Wales. It was a regular birth of a nation.

Breakfast was now ready, and we made it a wedding affair. The witch doctor proclaimed the hour propitious and the King took the hint, conveyed it to his dusky belle, and she became a decimal in his affections.

It was so good we hated to go, but duty called us. So we took a farewell swig of the native grape and bid them goodbye—King, Bride, Pluto—and all.

We're having roasted peacock for dinner tonight, Ern; but Sarah is calling. They want me to carve the Peacock.

Your friend and pal,

Richard A. Wormwood.

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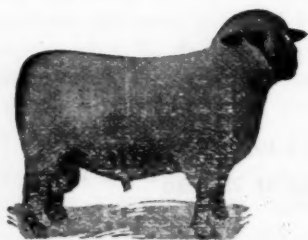
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this year. He has secured
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Thousand Springs Farm

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Minnie W. Miller, Owner.

Methods of Stabilizing Lamb Prices

(Continued from Page 30)

upon the stated intentions of various com-
mission houses as to what they will have
sent in from the supply of western stuff
at the outside stations. Of course after
the estimate has been given out commis-
sion men may change their plans and
order in more or less than originally in-
tended if the prospective supply in small-
er or larger than what they think can be
sold to good advantage the next day.

It is at this point that the most valu-
able results seem likely to be secured in
the near future and the fall of 1926 offers
an excellent opportunity for the sales-
men at the market to improve their ser-
vice in working for greater price stabi-
lity to benefit their shippers. As was
stated, some houses now make unusual
efforts along this line, but there is need
for similar efforts on the part of more
houses selling western sheep and lambs.
It calls for closer co-operation among the
salesmen and fuller confidence and ex-
change of ideas as to the number desirable
to receive on Monday in view of probable
demand and the supply to be merchan-
dised during the coming and later weeks.
But the commission men need the aid
and support of their shippers. In some
cases shippers have insisted on running
all of a large shipment on Monday against
the judgment and advice of the salesman.
No salesman can be expected to antagon-
ize his client in such a matter nor can it
be expected that the full desired result
will invariably be secured even when the
best possible effort is made in this direc-
tion. If a break is averted or reduced in
extent there has been financial gain to
every shipper on all the markets on the
day such a service is given.

The shippers who cannot be at the
market to advise regarding the distribu-
tion of their shipment over the different
days should give full authority to the
salesman to use his own judgment and
should judge his success, and the success
of the idea, not by any day's events but
by the average of a number of days. Bet-
ter co-operation between sheep salesmen
and between shippers and salesmen can
do a great deal to reduce the frequency
and extent of downward price changes on
Monday.

The Valuation of Wool

(Continued from Page 25)

qualified to determine the market value of his wool as is the buyer. If there are several buyers in a district and competition is keen, this method works well because the competition between buyers who do know the value of wool fixes the price.

This method of sale has other disadvantages to the grower. The buyer comes into the community with the intention of buying as much of the clip as possible. The price he pays for the first few clips sets the price for the remainder. The growers with the less desirable clips benefit at the expense of the growers who have the more desirable wool. Where two or more buyers are working a territory, they can agree to pool their interests and not pay more than a certain price.

By consigning to a commission merchant the wool grower retains ownership of his wool until sold. He can set a price and hold his wool until that price is obtained or he can sell at the discretion of his salesman. The commission salesman will grade it for him and can show it to a large number of buyers. In this way, the seller can usually obtain a higher price than he can by selling to a dealer. However, there are transportation, storage, and other charges which materially lower the price received by the producer, and the owner of wool must always accept the effect of a rise or fall in the market.

The local pool, if properly organized and managed, offers a satisfactory method of marketing wool. This method is particularly well-suited to the small grower who has only a small lot to sell. Its advantage is that enough wool is collected to attract other than local buyers. The disadvantages are the delay in receiving full payment for the wool and the difficulty of borrowing money on pooled wool.

Marketing through a state or regional pool is similar to marketing through a local pool except that the larger pool is likely to have better facilities for marketing than the smaller ones. The larger organization is likely to attract a larger number of buyers than the smaller pools. Some of the larger organizations make a practice of grading the fleeces while others do not. Examples of the larger western

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1000 ewes, with 30 extra good bucks \$10 each.

Included in above would be a ten-year National Forest permit, sheep wagon, tents, horses, lambing equipment; in fact, everything used for proper handling of sheep. Lambs from the band of ewes, last year, over 100 per cent drop, averaged 85 pounds. Owner wishes to return to banking business. Possession can be had about September 15.

BERNARD ALLHANDS
Leadore, Idaho

Choroleum Dip and Disinfectant

In use for 26 years
Best and cheapest

55 gal drums.....\$52.25

10 gal. cases.....10.50

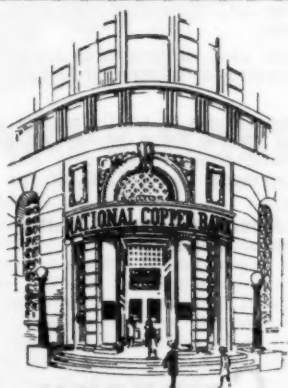
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AL-WUZ-ON LIVESTOCK EAR TAGS

The strongest Ear Tag on the market. Easily attached in one operation. Sufficient space for name, address and number. Write for free samples.

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organizations of a cooperative or semi-cooperative nature are The National Wool Exchange, Boston; the Pacific Co-operative Wool Growers' Association, Portland, Oregon; and the Northern California Wool Warehouse Company, Red Bluff, California. These companies handle large quantities of wool and are in position to get the maximum price the market will pay. Similar organizations are found in other states.

Selling direct to the manufacturer is usually similar to selling to a central market dealer. A few manufacturers send their representatives to the wool producing areas to make purchases. The ad-

vantages are similar to those encountered in selling to a central market dealer. Selling direct to the manufacturer eliminates the middlemen but the functions which they perform, such as storage, grading, and transportation, must be performed by either the manufacturer or the producer.

Variations in the above methods of marketing may be due to economic conditions or to individual preference. When the demand is great, a great deal of wool is sold before shearing. The central market dealers or manufacturers send their representatives into the wool producing districts and contract entire clips at stipulated prices. Again when the market is dull there may be very little wool sold. In this case the wool producer often consigns his wool to a central market dealer for sale. Both methods usually work to the disadvantage of the grower. In the first case, the buyer is in a much better position to forecast accurately the future wool market. Guiding his actions by his more accurate information, he does not contract wool when the market is uncertain. On the other hand, when the market is unsteady, the growers may be forced to consign their wool, thereby assuming the market risks.

The method of sealed bids may or may not be used with small pools. The pooled wool is advertised for sale and sealed bids received, the growers reserving the privilege of accepting or rejecting any bid. This method has proven satisfactory in a great many cases, but has the disadvantage that the growers may overguess the market and hold their wool for too high a price. A similar system is used in some of the semi-cooperative associations where a minimum price is placed on the wool.

As yet no method of sale which is flawless has been found. However, selling year after year through large cooperative and competently managed organizations or through strictly commission (non-speculating) concerns seems certain to secure maximum returns when adhered to as a strict rule, and relieves the grower from the worry and anxiety of holding his own in dealing with interest which specialize on wool and who are better informed regarding wools than many growers can expect to be.

DIPPING A SMALL FLOCK

A farmer in Delaware County, Ohio, who feeds around six hundred lambs each winter built a dipping vat two years ago—and made it rather small to avoid heavy expense of charging. In fact, for the inside form he used an old galvanized sheep-dipping tank bought several years earlier. This was the deep type designed for sinking into the ground.

When the vat was built the season's (1924) lambs were already in the barns, having been dipped at the Chicago Stock Yards after purchase. Probably the chief reason for setting this new vat was because considerable scab had gotten into that section mostly via Texas shipments and also sundry lots of lambs had one year and another suffered from sore eyes and sore mouths. The vat was to be a handy thing to have in case any trouble developed whether in dipped or in undipped lambs.

However, this season the vat owner shipped his lambs right from the yards without dipping (by special permit) thinking that with the accommodations of his own barns he could take better care of the animals after dipping than could be given them at the yards.

With a good deal of morning and evening chores of sundry kinds on the farm, two men dipped the 600 lambs in two days allowing each lamb three minutes in the nicotine solution. But the owner said it took most of the first day to learn how to get the lambs into the vat! The second day the dipping progressed smoothly, the plan hit upon evidently suiting this one farmer at least.

The attendant who caught the lambs merely let them slide down an inclined wet board into the vat—backwards. Three lambs in the vat at once was its full capacity—all three faced back towards the perpendicular end of the vat! Instead of swimming the animals, the owner himself stood beside the vat and floated them backwards with a crook. Being in this reversed position the animals did not struggle to get out of the bath and no animal crawled out before his full time in the vat.

When desired to release the animal after three full minutes in the vat, the

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Molasses Feed is used for filling milk lambs. The feed is mixed fresh daily in our own plant. Comfortable covered pens for 135 doubles, watered from spring that flows always while lambs are in pens. Good pasture for any number of cars.

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Save Shrinkage From Feeding Point to Market as

these yards are located within ten miles of the Kansas City Stock Yards. Have the Railroad Agent put "FEED AT MORRIS" on your billing, otherwise efforts may be made to induce you to stop at other yards.

Special rates on long feeding. Write for particulars.

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Capacity 30,000 sheep, 10,000 under cover in large roomy, well ventilated and lighted pens, artesian water. The best of service at reasonable rates. Western shipments consigned to Eastern Markets have choice two routes from here for Denver, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Joseph or Chicago. Union Pacific or Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroads.

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BOTH OUR U. S. LICENSED WAREHOUSES IN SAN FRANCISCO AND PORTLAND ARE LOCATED AT PORTS EN ROUTE TO MARKET—UTAH AND IDAHO GROWERS CAN SHIP EAST VIA OUR WAREHOUSES CHEAPER THAN DIRECT ALL RAIL. NO GUESSING AT SHRINKAGE. WE HAVE ADEQUATE SCOURING AND CARBONIZING FACILITIES—ALL GRADING, SORTING, SCOURING, SELLING DONE BY AN EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL. FOR FIVE YEARS THE LARGEST COOPERATIVE WOOL MARKETING ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES SELLING WOOL TO MILLS ON MERIT.

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SHIP OR OFFER YOUR SHEEP TO PELTS

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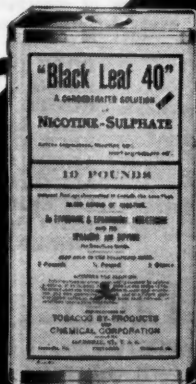
KILLS Scab-mites, Lice and Sheep Ticks

"Black Leaf 40" is chemically certain to kill these disease-breeding pests when brought into proper contact with them, yet is non-injurious to sheep and lambs. Its use as a dip actually promotes growth of wool, and does not lessen its natural oils. Instead of using dips that are frequently fatal to sheep, that injure the fleece and decrease its value and weight, sheep breeders year after year are finding "Black Leaf 40" the "old reliable" for genuine protection and profitable dipping.

Ask your dealer for literature.

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INCORPORATED
Louisville, Kentucky

"Black Leaf 40"
40% Nicotine



crook was placed under his neck and with a deft turn his position was reversed so that he faced the incline and made his exit—the other two lambs in the vat being immediately floated in their backward position towards the incline, thus making room for another entrant that was ready to slide into the bath.

For a small operator the owner of this vat likes its size not only because charged much more economically, but the lambs are more docile in the vat and under better control.

G. P. Williams.

Foot - and - Mouth Disease Officially Declared Eradicated From United States

Effective June 10 all domestic quarantine regulations previously imposed by the United States Department of Agriculture because of foot-and-mouth disease in livestock are revoked. This announcement applies particularly to California in which certain areas have been kept under supervision as a precautionary measure. June 10 of this year marks the elapse of exactly a year since the last infection of disease in California was found and destroyed. In the meantime no recurrence of such infection appeared there.

The State of Texas, where foot-and-mouth disease broke out in 1924 and reappeared in 1925, was officially freed from all quarantine April 1, 1926. The situation in California, according to veterinary officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry, was more dangerous owing to the rough and inaccessible character of the land, infection among wild deer, and other complex conditions.

The official document which declares that foot-and-mouth disease has been eradicated from the United States and no longer exists in it is known as Bureau of Animal Industry Order 297, and was signed by Secretary Jardine June 1, to take effect June 10. There still remain in effect the usual restrictions that protect the United States from foot-and-mouth disease and other livestock plagues in foreign countries. Such regulations have been made extremely broad and comprehensive and are rigidly enforced.